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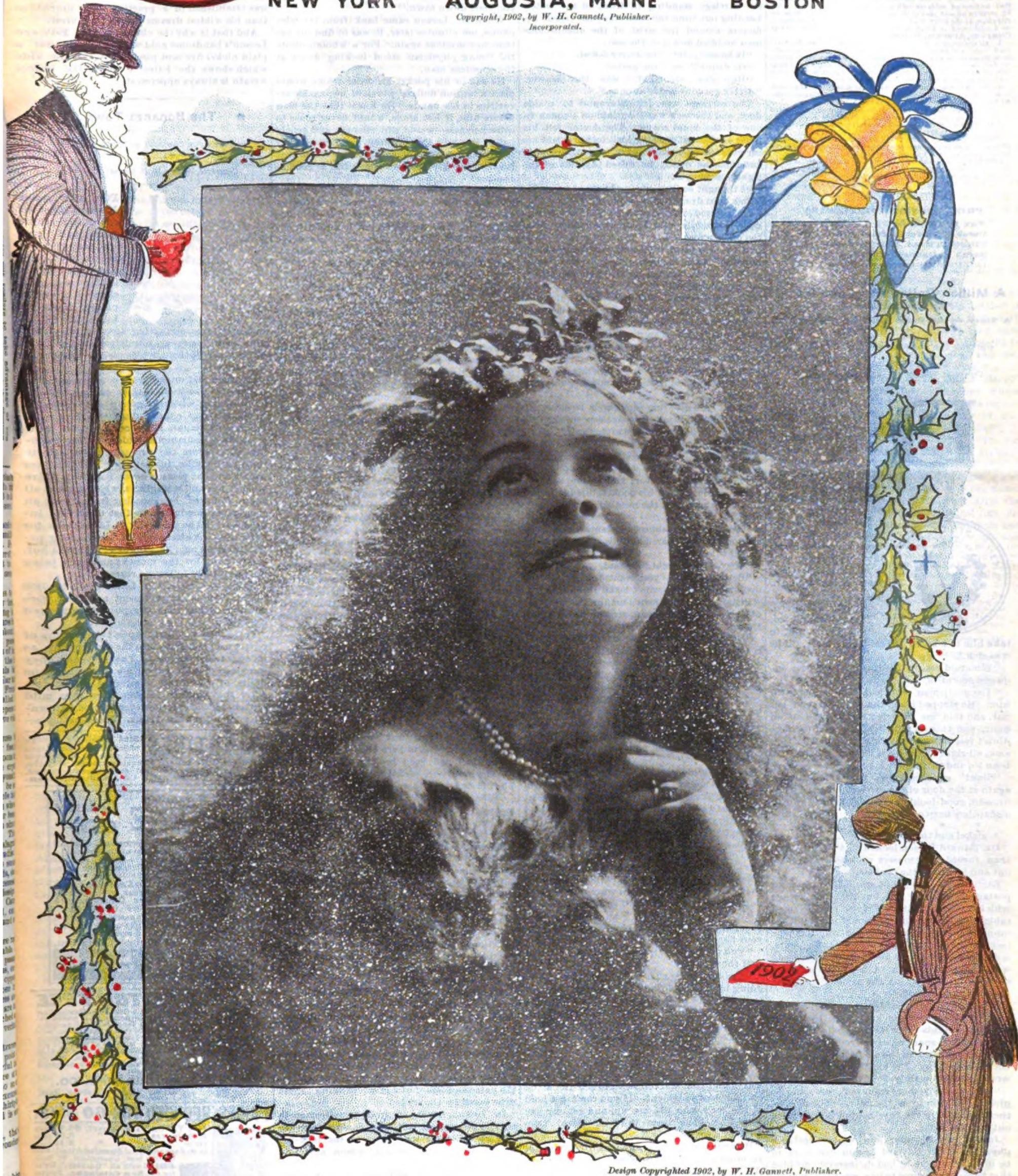
COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

Devoted to Art, Literature, Science, and the Home Circle.
NEW YORK AUGUSTA, MAINE BOSTON

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PRIZE STORIES.

The following conditions govern the awarding of cash prizes for Nutshell Stories, and the manuscripts of such writers only as have complied with all these requirements will receive consideration.

All the necessary particulars being here clearly set forth, it will be useless for anyone to seek further information or personal favor by addressing the editor, as such letters cannot be answered.

1. Only persons who are regular paid up yearly subscribers to "Comfort" and who send with every manuscript at least four yearly subscribers (together with 25 cents to pay for each subscriber so sent) may compete for the prizes.

2. All contributions must have the number of words they contain plainly noted thereon in addition to the writer's full name and address with nom de plume if desired; must be written on one side of the paper only, enclosed in the same envelope as the letter and remittance for new subscriptions, and addressed to EDITOR NUTSHELL STORY CLUB care of COMPTON, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

3. All stories must be strictly original with the contributors, and must not have appeared in print before. Competitors may write upon any subject, whether based upon fact, fancy or fiction—of adventure, love, war, peace; of city or country life, or of experiences on land or sea—but no story must contain more than 2,000 or less than 1,000 words.

4. NO MANUSCRIPT WILL BE RETURNED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AND COMPETITORS SHOULD THEREFORE RETAIN A COPY OF WHAT THEY SEND.

5. From \$5 to \$20 will be paid for stories, and remittances will be sent by check as soon as awards have been made.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Short Story Prize Offer.

The Publishers of "Comfort" reserve the right to purchase at their established rates any stories submitted under the foregoing offer, which failed to secure a prize.

6. Writers who hear nothing of their manuscript may at the end of 90 days after submitting them to "Comfort" feel at liberty to offer their stories for sale elsewhere.

PRIZE WINNERS FOR JANUARY.

Max B. Thrasher, First Prize.

Oscar S. Seaver, Second Prize.

Elizabeth Bean, Third Prize.

Sarah E. Gannett, Fourth Prize.

Col. Prentiss Ingraham, Fifth Prize.

A Million Dollar Five Cent Piece.

A Story of the Great Railroad Deal of 1901.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY MAX B. THRASHER.

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RIVE on, I say. We don't want the likes of him here."

"Sure I was told to take him to a hotel."

"And who told you to do that? It's to the inebriate asylum you should be after taking him, I'm thinking."

The porter of the Manhattan Square Hotel thrust his hands into his pockets as if to intimate that there was nothing for him to do.

"Go on!" He added. The cabby hesitated. "But I was told to take him to a hotel," he said, once more, "if he was sick."

"Who told you to do that?" the porter inquired scornfully.

"The gentleman who had been riding with him. He stopped me at the L station and got out, and told me to drive about for half an hour, and then if the gent in the carriage didn't feel better to take him to a hotel. He's sick, all right; and this is the third hotel I've been to, and they won't take him in."

"Sick!" exclaimed the porter looking again at the door of the carriage, where a well-dressed, good-looking man was sunk down in a shapeless heap upon the seat. "He's drunk!"

* * * * *

A nickel and three coppers.

Dr. Edward Leeson looked at the coins, and then turned his trousers pockets wrong side out and looked at the pockets.

Eight cents. Should he spend the money for postage stamps to put on the four letters which lay sealed and addressed on the small table in the bare room, or should he spend the money for a cup of coffee and a roll this one last time, and leave his letters as they were, with the chance that whoever found him dead would be kind enough of heart to forward a suicide's last letters to the persons to whom they were addressed?

"I'll chance it," he said, almost smiling once more at the grotesque gruesomeness of the gamble. "Heads I buy stamps; tails, coffee."

The nickle spun upward from his thumbnail, and whirling in the air fell clattering on the wooden floor. The big V inside the laurel wreath showed plainly.

"Tails!" the young man said, stooping to pick up the coin from the floor. "Coffee it is, then." Locking the door behind him he went out into the street.

Just why so young and well educated a physician as Dr. Edward Leeson had come to be in a place where he had deliberately decided that he no longer cared to live, was his own business. No doubt he was more or less to blame. There was a woman in it, too, naturally. A long hard struggle to get a profession had been

followed by a harder struggle to get a practice. Now the game was up, he told himself—or rather not worth the playing longer, and he would withdraw. He had spent the night putting the few things he had left in order and in writing the letters now lying on the table. Thanks to his doctor's drugs—if a scanty remnant—the means for carrying him over into the great Unknown was at hand. As soon as he came back from the street the voyage was to be undertaken.

"Sick!"

The ear of a doctor caught the word unconsciously, and passed it on through all the whirling thoughts in his mind to where it made an impression on the brain.

Dr. Leeson taking a short cut across Manhattan Square to his lodging place from the cheap restaurant where he had been taking his meals of late, stopped beside the open door of the carriage standing in front of the hotel. Leaning out from the curb stone he closed his fingers around the wrist of the unconscious man huddled down on the seat.

"Is he sick, sir?" the driver asked.

"Or drunk?" said the porter.

"He's sick, all right," was the answer. "Better get him inside at once."

The carriage was driven around to a side door, and the man was soon laid on a couch in one of the hotel rooms. The doctor felt his pulse again, and opening his clothing laid his ear over the sick man's heart. Then, first one and then the other, he raised the lids of the tightly shut eyes.

"I thought so," he said, as he stood up again. "He's been drugged."

He pressed the electric button beside the door, and while a hall boy was coming from the office wrote out two prescriptions.

"Get these filled at the nearest drug store," he said, "as soon as possible."

"Will I have them charged?" the boy asked, "or pay for them?"

"Charged," was the answer. "Go, quick!"

An hour later the man on the couch was slowly coming back to consciousness. His eyes were open. The first word he said was "time," and then, over and over again, "What time?" "Is there time?"

Finally, as if with one desperate effort to rally his faculties, he said. "Are you a doctor?"

"Yes."

"Can't you give me something to clear my head for just five minutes, so I can think? No matter what happens to me afterwards."

The doctor hesitated.

"Can't you?" the man said again, and half whispered, "A fortune depends upon it."

"Yes," said the doctor; and taking a hypodermic syringe from his pocket, filled it from a tiny vial and thrust the needle into the man's arm.

The effect was almost instantaneous. The sick man's eyes cleared and his tongue was no longer thick.

"Why, I'm all right," he said.

"Better say what you want to, quick," the doctor said. "You won't be all right long."

Instantly the sick man's manner became that of the keen business man, accustomed to think and act promptly.

"Do you know anything about stocks?" he asked.

"Something," said the doctor in surprise, reflecting grimly to himself that if he had known less about stocks—or more—he would not have been in need to kill himself that morning.

"My name is John Dix," the man on the couch said. "I was drugged and robbed in that carriage this morning by a man whom I have always trusted."

He felt in his pockets. "The only thing he took from me was a key to a safe deposit box in the Park Trust Company's building. In that box are twelve hundred shares of Oregon and Atlantic stock. Did you read the papers yesterday?"

"Yes."

"Then you know there is a corner being worked in that stock, and that \$350 a share was offered for it yesterday. It will go to twice that figure today. The man who stole my key means to get that stock, sell it, and get clear."

"Would I have died?" he said suddenly changing the subject, "if I had not fallen into your hands in time?"

"You might," replied the doctor.

"I thought so."

"The only thing that will stop him," he said, going back to his former subject again, "is that two keys are necessary to open the box. My brokers have the second key. He will find that out in time and try to get it. The brokers are Kohl & Thomas, on Broadway. Can I get down there?"

"No," said the doctor promptly.

"Then you must go for me. Tell them what I have told you, and tell them to sell the stock on their best judgment. If you can't get hold of the man who did me up, and get my key from him, blow open the box. Here! Give me that piece of paper."

He wrote on the back of a prescription blank an order to the safety deposit company to do the bearer's bidding, even to blowing open his strong box, and signed it.

"You understand, now, do you?" he asked, and then added, "Have you got much money with you?"



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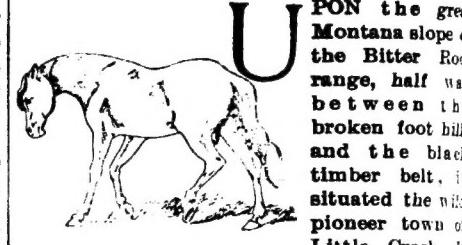
sufficiently recovered to be taken to his home. He insisted that Dr. Leeson—to whom he declared reasonably enough that he owed his life—must go with him, and when he had recovered and the physician's circumstances were known to him, did not rest until the doctor was established in a practice more lucrative than his wildest dreams had ever pictured.

And that is why the charm on Dr. Edward Leeson's handsome gold watch chain is just a plain nickel five cent piece, set so that the side which shows the letter V inside the laurel wreath is always uppermost.

The Bonanza Town.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY OSCAR S. SEAVER.

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ON the great Montana slope of the Bitter Root range, half way between the broken foot hills and the black timber belt, is situated the wild pioneer town of Little Creek. It

consists of two straggling rows of log structures and boasts as municipal ornaments a doctor's cabin, three whitewashed stores and two saloons.

It is here that miners and cowboys come to shake off the solitude of their callings. There is company, whiskey, gossip of the outside world, poker in either saloon and three card Monte on a blanket in the open, presided over by white or Indian manipulators. The hitching rails before the two saloons are usually lined with ponies, indicating a brisk business inside, and the plaza is never deserted. There are disputes and wranglings, which if not at all times followed by shooting frays, create an atmosphere conducive to that diversion. Indeed, such is the proclivity of Little Creek for entertainment after the wild tastes of her patrons that no man "goes broke" without a hot exciting run for the money; and such being the quest there follow no regrets.

There was no law in Little Creek in 1880 higher than public sentiment and there were no rulers other than the publicly supported celebrities.

These roles fell justly upon two cowboys of repute who had come into the new country as independent stock men. Though young, they were men of wide experience throughout the limits of the Great Western Cow Country. After the cowboy fashion they were mild spoken, but no exteriors ever covered more untamed tempers than theirs. Therefore no be-

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little "short handles" had accrued to their lot, leaving them spoken of as Moses Tilford and Elijah Allen, which upon intimacy might be cut to Mose and Lige.

In the public eye each man had his distinct prestige. Tilford was a skillful arbiter of disputes over stock rights between the Indians and cattlemen. Through his friendship with Yellow Wolf, the old chief, Tilford managed to share peacefully during the dry months, the water supply to which the Indians held flawless claim. Allen had put a notch in his own score of public achievements to equalize this by winning a complete victory over Tilford at the fair and games in which Little Creek annually indulged.

It cannot be said that the two cowboys were not rivals. It also cannot be said that they were, until, without their knowledge, Little Creek placed them as such by betting upon which cowboy would first place his brand on a certain four year old stallion that was running wild in the hills.

The animal in question was a prince of his kind and necessarily attracting attention enjoyed a reputation that seemed hardly true. In the summer of 1898 he was a continual challenge to the ability of either Tilford or Allen, and as both of the cowboys had publicly accepted the challenge, the rest of Little Creek extended the courtesy of "hands off."

During one of the long absences of the two men the expectancy that Allen's big "A" or Tilford's triangle in triangle would speedily reach the coveted mark developed at Little Creek and the town awaited with keen excitement the return of the two men; an event which promised to enrich one half of the population at the expense of the other.

It was therefore with no little surprise that the two men learned of the game in which Little Creek had indulged during their absence and the parts they had been expected to play. Both men were in the Paris. Allen's face took on a foolish smile. Tilford laughed.

"I'll go it, Lige," he said.

"Tis about time a rope was on the little cuss," returned Allen complacently, the truth being that his brand was already a day old on the stallion and he was still sore from the struggle that had left the spirited animal comparatively tame and tractable. Allen's vanity, however, was touched, and not content with stealing a legitimate march, he grasped the chance of adding the laugh of a practical joke played at the expense of his would-be competitor. He therefore agreed to the proposition with a sweet sense of irresponsibility, regretting only that for appearances he would have to set out for the Big Hole region sooner than he had intended.

During the absence of Allen and Tilford, just mentioned, the first professional gambler to set foot in Little Creek became a familiar fixture at the poker tables. To his eye the busy little town with its constant stream of transient cowboys and miners was simply a bonanza awaiting a clear up.

This gentleman, who took the sobriquet of Wizard, had left his real name as well as his latest photograph somewhere in the Chicago rogues' gallery. Since then he had been moving along the line of the Northern Pacific Railroad, staying in a place as long as local sentiment would allow; then taking to the trucks of the first west bound freight until the next locality was reached. He therefore stepped from the semi-weekly stage at Little Creek not only with a realization that no town in Dakota could be victimized with the lucrative returns here offered, but also with a belief that he had stepped beyond the long arm of the law.

True, Little Creek was a bonanza town, but disastrously for the gambler's vision, the law of that town which was sentiment, was wielded by the very man the gambler could least afford to meet thus invested. He had not counted upon recognition. As it was he entered into the life of Little Creek, became an adept gossip of local events; became thoroughly familiar with the reputations of Tilford and Allen, the wagers upon them, and all the while plied his craft with merciless though flawless trickery and harvested the beginning of a fortune.

After the compact at the Paris, Tilford and Allen strode across the plaza and stepped into Jackson's. The men at the tables called out salutations. The gambler took a quick glance and continued his play. Allen went over to the bar, but Tilford keeping his eyes on the gambler slowly approached his table.

He had recognized the Wizard at once as his partner in a game of cards at Glen Dive, North Dakota, several years before. The game had cost Tilford a year's wages and the salable parts of his outfit. Upon regaining his sober senses the victimized cowboy had intended shooting the gambler but as that would entail the added chagrin of borrowing a gun, he finally put it off and left peacefully with empty pocket and stomach. This was merely a passing event in the gambler's career but to the cowboy's pride it was a wound of humiliation still red.

"Just a minute of your valuable time," interrupted the cowboy using one of the gambler's discarded names and holding his revolver at a proper level. "You didn't seem to recognize an old pal from Glen Dive. Don't interrupt. I'm darned sensitive about being

interrupted. I'm not mistaken. You're the coyote that bled me back east. Took every red I had and sent me prospecting for grub. Now this ain't a conundrum I'm giving; it's dead straight talk. You ain't playing fair. These boys don't know it but I do and my word is good here. We can't stand your kind here you understand. Now you sent me prospecting for grub, I'm going to send you prospecting for a new town, and you can thank me for not plugging you right here. After noon tomorrow I may show up at any time and if I find you ornamenting this here town it's tar, feathers and lead. Don't let me interrupt your game boys," and with this ultimatum that left every man standing, the cowboy backed out of the door.

The next morning the Wizard sat among the tables at Jackson's in deep thought, contemplating with abstracted gaze the brisk traffic across the bar. It was time to propose a game and there were fat pouches in town that morning to tempt a violation of the injunction. The Wizard did not fear an exchange of shots but he could not hope to brave public sentiment which had turned against him overnight. The alternative was, however, to abandon his bonanza town and he was no more disposed to do that than a miner is disposed to leave an uncovered lode.

It was in the last hour of his allotted time that fate put a desperate finesse in the Wizard's hands, which if successfully played would allow him to disappear for a space of time and then return to Little Creek to guilelessly complete his clean up.

A Mexican wrangler known as Pete in the employ of Allen came into Jackson's and remarked that his boss's brand was on the black stallion. He had merely seen it; further he knew nothing. In the excitement which followed the gambler buttonholed Pete presumably to good purpose. Then the two walked up to the bar.

"It's on me," said Jackson a backer of Allen. Then remembering the injunction he laughed harshly and added, "chances are I won't do it again."

"Even chances you won't if I know my business" and leaving Jackson scratching his head over this admission, the Wizard and Pete disappeared from Little Creek.

Because this is the narration of facts as known at Little Creek it must be admitted that aside from one instance, the subsequent movements of the gambler is a mystery. Nevertheless, it is presumable that guided and aided by the astute Mexican, the gambler had little trouble in finding the black stallion and again placing the animal under control. It is a fact, however, that Yellow Wolf riding through the hills to Little Creek discovered the two men in a deep coulee a half mile away from his trail engaged in branding the black stallion which Yellow Wolf happened to know had undergone the same operation two days previous at the hands of Elijah Allen. Scenting trouble merely between the gambler and Allen, however, and being too wise an Indian to mix in white men's trouble, Yellow Wolf rode into Little Creek and out again without giving the slightest intimation of what he had seen.

A cheerful week passed in which Little Creek did not miss the well-dressed fixture at the poker tables. Little Creek was not only actively engaged in preparation for its approaching gala day but was getting careworn over the wagered money which the Mexican wrangler's word had not been sufficient to decide.

"What I want to know," declared McAllister, "is why in h-lle Mose don't come in and say Pete's story is a lie."

"He don't have to," remarked the complacent Jackson.

"You've got the word of a greaser," sneered McAllister.

"Good enough for me," replied Jackson.

"Maybe, but I say he was lying," retorted McAllister.

As if in special corroboration of McAllister's statement, Billy Break, a cowboy of veracity rode into Little Creek with the announcement that it was not Allen's big "A" but Tilford's triangle in triangle that was on the stallion. This put Little Creek in a second spasm of excitement.

"Give up," demanded McAllister and one half the population of Jackson and the other.

"No, sir," replied Jackson stolidly. Jackson then took a piece of chalk and continued, "You've missed the point. Now Leigh's big 'A' is like this." He drew it on the bar. "Now add to it here and here and here and you've got Mose's triangle in triangle as sure as shooting. I guess we'll wait for the boys if it's all the same to you Mr. McAllister."

When Tilford returned he found Little Creek in holiday garb. Booths and bunting gave the true tone of celebration while the fringe of schooners and tents upon the outskirts which gave the town the appearance of a new gold strike were in reality a tribute to the gala programme. The mixed holiday crowd had soon become acquainted with the details of what was publicly termed the doctored brand and were waiting with suppressed excitement an episode.

It may be said, however that while Little Creek felt trouble impending, it was not prepared for the quick action which took place.

Tilford rode into town first. "Don't worry

about me, Mac," he said to McAllister in the Paris. "If Lige branded that horse, he did it before he came into town last time. I knew it because he'd been in the Big Hole country ever since. I've been keeping tab on him. I didn't know where the black stallion was so I followed him to find out. I got in talking range of him once.

"He says to me chipper'n blazes, 'been doing any branding lately?' I saw he had a cincher ready for me. 'Waah,' says I, 'been trailing you to take lessons in the art.' 'Better get up a sweat pretty quick,' sez he. 'Don't mention it' sez I, about as sassy as I knew. 'Some people have their work done before others have begun' and I left him pretty mad.

"Now I've come into a deal against four of a kind, Mac, drew a new hand, found them all blue and walking right up hill and before I lay that hand down there'll be fun."

Said Allen to Jackson's relief, "I put my brand on a clean hide. Pete and Yellow Wolf can prove it. I met Mose in the Big Hole. Said he'd been taking lessons of me. Said some folks had their work done before others began. I see his meaning now. He didn't like my particular design and doctored it into his! I'll make him hum for it Jack; just chalk that up somewhere as a reminder."

Allen, nipped in his own trap, thoroughly enraged, was as good as his word. Learning Tilford's whereabouts he started across the plaza followed by an expectant crowd. Billy Break leaning against the bar in the Paris had time to cry a warning before Allen appeared. Tilford rose in a flash and whipped out his gun. The two reports were almost simultaneous. Tilford slid under a table from which he was subsequently dragged apparently lifeless. Allen rocked a moment and then sank into a chair.

Doc Bailey, into whose cabin the wounded men were carried, quickly diagnosed the cases. Allen was not even prostrated. He had been struck in the shoulder but outside of an ugly fracture was not seriously hurt. Tilford, however, had been shot through the chest and although no blood appeared upon the lips to indicate that the lungs had been pierced, Bailey had no hope for him.

It was before this bulletin was changed that the holiday crowd departed for ranch and claim spreading the false rumor all over the Bitter Root country that Elijah Allen had shot and killed Moses Tilford at Little Creek in a quarrel over the branding of a horse.

In the presence of Doc Bailey, McAllister, Jackson, Billy Break and Lige Allen, Tilford heard Yellow Wolf describe for the hundredth time the scene he had witnessed.

"I calate he played it on us Lige," was Tilford's comment.

"On me," corrected the other.

"You played fair, Lige," and these words of Tilford's closed the matter between the two men except that when they rode again it was as partners.

What to others was a nasty piece of mischief however was to Jackson a key to the locked motive of the affair. That astute analyst took his chalk again and spent the next two days putting two and two together over his bar.

"He's playing to come back," was his gratifying discovery, "and chances are he'll bite at the news that Mose was killed, and show up here as meek as a kitten, licking its paw. Don't you fellers see that was his strategy? Just keep mum, boys, and let the ancient law of retribution take its course."

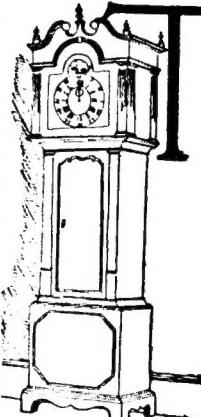
Therefore Little Creek waited patiently, even going so far when abroad as to deny the counter rumor of Tilford's recovery, hoping that the Wizard would return to his bonanza town to enjoy the victory he had so nearly won. But time showed this to be a futile hope. Tilford's recovery spread as quickly as had his rumored death and Little Creek regretfully allowed the matter to pass into history, it having been agreed as a mark of sympathy for Tilford and a matter of just concession to Tilford's supporters that all wagers should be declared off.

When the Clock Struck Thirteen.

A New Year's Story.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY ELIZABETH BEAN.

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en, and Mrs. Root selected from the well-filled woodbox a large knotty stick of dry maple

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wood. This she introduced into the sitting-room stove by taking the entire top of the stove off. When the stove top had been let down again, and Mrs. Root had brushed the wood dirt off the front of her dress and adjusted the stove dampers, the two women drew their rocking chairs up in front of the fire and sat down.

It was the last night of the old year. The "folks" had gone to the village to attend a "watch night" service in one of the churches. Mrs. Root and her sister, Mrs. Sarah Parmenter, who lived in Iowa and was making a long-looked-forward-to visit to her old New England home, had elected not to go to the meeting. "Some one will have to stay at home to keep fire, anyway," Mrs. Root had said.

"Hearing that clock strike," said the farmer's wife, after she had got comfortably settled in her chair, "makes me think, Sarah, that with all we've talked about the things that have happened here late years, I haven't thought to tell you about the strangest one of all and that is the going on about the Butler place."

"You mean the Grandfather Butler place?" inquired Mrs. Parmenter. "The one where the old man lived, with Eunice to take care of him? By the way, what ever became of Eunice? She was about our age, wasn't she?"

"A little older," was the reply. "It was about her that the strange part of it all happened. You see Eunice was not really any relation to Grandfather Butler. She was a girl they took to bring up, to help about the house when the children were small; but after she got grown up she took right hold just like one of the family, and when the other children had all died or got married and gone away, she was the only one that stayed to make a home for the old man. To my own certain knowledge, Eunice Butler—she always called her name Butler, although she never was legally adopted

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—had at least two good chances to get married, and turned her back on both of them because she said the Butlers had taken care of her when she was little and needed a home, and she thought it was no more than she ought to do to stay and take care of the old man when he needed her.

"Grandfather Butler lived and lived, until he had got to be ninety-something when he died. Everybody supposed he'd provided for Eunice, because he was well-to-do; but he didn't, it seemed, and when the old man died the estate was settled according to law, and as she was not a legal heir she didn't get anything.

"There were only two heirs left by that time, one the son of the oldest boy, who lives in Chicago, and the other she that was Jane Augusta Butler's only child, a Mrs. Trotter, who lives in Boston. They divided the property up so that the home place here fell to Mrs. Trotter. Folks thought they'd at least give Eunice the house, or do something for her for all she'd done—everybody was provoked with the old man for dying and not providing for her—but land! they didn't do anything of the kind. Mrs. Trotter said the place was just what she had been wanting for years, for a country home. You know it is a big old house, with lots of old-fashioned furniture in it such as folks set such store by now. Mrs. Trotter said you couldn't buy a house with such an 'atmosphere'—whatever she meant by that—and that she wouldn't part with a thing that was in it. So she turned Eunice out, bag and baggage—though there wasn't so very much of the latter—and came up here in the summer to live, bringing her servants with her, and having a lot of company. Eunice went to keep house for a widower over in Glenbank. I was told—on good authority, too—that she asked Mrs. Trotter if she couldn't stay and work for her—because she was so much attached to the place—and look after the house the year round, but that Mrs. Trotter told her she didn't want to have any but trained servants. I don't suppose she meant to be insulting. She probably didn't know any better. Eunice Butler never was anybody's servant; she was always one of the family.

"Well, along toward the end of the year—just before Christmas—Mrs. Trotter sent up some extra servants, and then came herself with some of her folks, and then in a day or two quite a lot of company, for what I heard she called a winter house party. They had a Christmas tree and went sleighing and skating, days.

"The last night of the old year they had a party to dance the old year out and the new year in. One of Mrs. Trotter's trained servants had behaved so scandalously—from drinking, folks said—that she had been obliged to let her go, and being left short-handed with company, she hired Ellen Watkins to help out. It was from Ellen being there that I know so much about what happened.

"Ellen said that they had planned an awful fancy dance of some kind for the last thing before midnight. Just before the hour struck they were all going to stop right where they were standing, on the kitchen floor, and wait perfectly still until the new year had come in. Then each one was to salute his or her partner and wish them a happy new year, and give them some present that had been got ready beforehand.

"They were all ready on the floor, Ellen said, when somebody asked, 'How will we know when it is midnight?'

"'Why, when the clock strikes,' somebody else said.

"But there ain't but one clock in the house that strikes,' the first woman said again, 'and that is so far off we can't hear it out here.'

"Let's bring it out here, then,' two or three said.

"Well, the upshot of it was they lugged old Grandfather Butler's tall clock that had always stood in what was his room, and had been left there when he died, out into the kitchen. It stopped it of course, but they started it going again, and one of the men set it by his watch. Just as the long hand marked two minutes to twelve, the music stopped—it was a piano—and everybody stopped talking and laughing and dancing, and stood still where they were. Ellen said it was a real pretty sight, for there were some children; and the women were dressed to kill.

"When Ellen told me about it it made me think of the time I was in Boston, a number of years ago, new year's, and John's folks took me to Trinity Church to a watch meeting. That was when Phillips Brooks was bishop. I had read so much about him I wanted to see him. The church is just grand, and it seemed so great and solemn in the night time, although it was packed full of people. We went early and had good seats. The singing was beautiful. Then Bishop Brooks went up into the pulpit and preached a little sermon—only it didn't seem like a sermon, either. He just talked, and what he said came right home to everybody to comfort and help them. At least I know it did me. When it was almost midnight he stopped a minute, and then looking down at the people, he said, 'The old year has only five minutes more to live. What the new year will have for us, no one of us can know. Let us spend these last few minutes in silent prayer to God that whatever it is that is to come to us whether joy or sorrow, we may be given strength and wisdom to live so as to do the most good possible for God and for the men and women around us.'

"Then he kneeled down in the pulpit, and everybody bowed their heads, and the church was so still you would have thought it was empty.

"And then, all at once, out of the darkness and silence somewhere, there came what seemed to be the sound of the most beautiful clock you can imagine—although John told me afterwards that it wasn't a clock at all—striking slowly, 'one—two—three,' and so on.

"When the last note had struck, Bishop Brooks stood up—you know he was tall man, and grand looking—and looking down on the people he said, 'Friends, dear friends, I wish you all a happy, a very happy new year.'

"He died a few weeks after that. I've always been so glad I saw him that time."

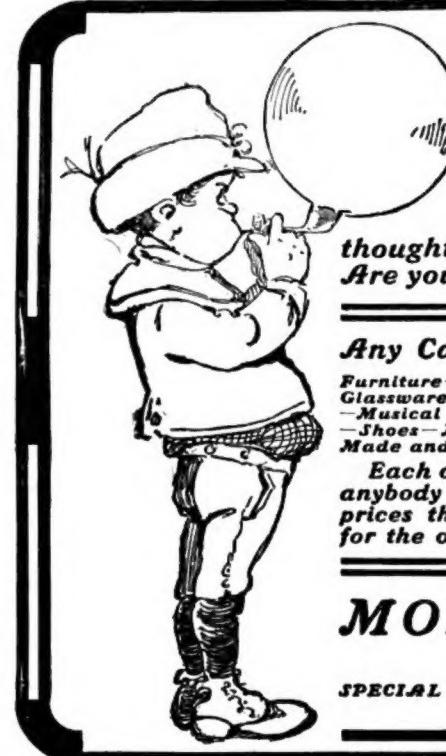
"Yes," said Mrs. Parmenter, "he was a good man."

The two women sat silent for several minutes.

"But to go back to my story," said Mrs. Root. "I got clear off the track, didn't I?"

"Well, they stood in the kitchen waiting for the clock to strike; and it didn't strike. That is, not at first. When the hands got to twelve, and the folks all standing there, they could hear the works in the clock going, and a sort of rustling. Then finally it began to strike—'one—two—three' up to twelve, and then before anybody had time to say 'Wish you a happy new year,' thirteen!

"It was so strange, and seemed such a bad



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will serve to render your house homelike to him, and if he in dies Siberia you will cherish them."

Ivan's eyes glistened, and he grasped the other's hand. "I cannot thank you," he said, "and I cannot now offer to repay you, for I need all my money; but some day, if we both live, you shall know how highly I appreciate all you have done for me."

We cannot follow our hero in his lonely journey across the continent. We cannot even fathom the depths of his misery as he struggled on by any mode of conveyance available. Through the system of police surveillance practiced in Russia was so great that he could not be persuaded to adopt a profession but begged that he be allowed to become a steel manufacturer. He had applied himself assiduously to business, and had soon become rich, but his haunting fear prevented him from enjoying his life, and at last he began, secretly, to make preparations to remove to the United States. Through a friend he purchased an interest in a steel business there, and leaving his father to close up his affairs in St. Petersburg, he quietly set sail for America.

Time passed, and the strangers grew accustomed to their new surroundings. Ivan thoroughly understood his business, and was so honorable and straightforward in his dealings that he won the respect and esteem of all. In their social relations, too, both he and his wife drew around themselves host of friends. Thus passed several happy years, but one day Ivan came home with pale face and disturbed manner and sought his wife.

"Ritchie, my father has been arrested and thrown into prison. Why, I do not know, but I ought to go to him at once. I cannot tell how long I shall be gone, and I must go secretly for fear of falling into the hands of that horrible gang of spies employed over there, and being myself imprisoned. May I go, Ritchie? I will not go without your consent, but, oh, my darling, think of my poor father and his dreadful fate, and let me go to save him if I can."

For many minutes Mrs. Istrovitch could not reply. With her white face pressed close to her husband's breast, and her shaking hands clutching him as if she would never let him go, she seemed almost insensible to what he said; but at last tears came to her relief, and lifting her streaming eyes to his she said:

"Yes, go, my husband. I dare not keep you, but oh, how can I bear it! God grant that you may return to me, and that you may either bring your father with you or leave him dead."

"Amen," solemnly answered her husband.

"My own true wife. I can never thank you for this great sacrifice of yours, but you know that I feel it. And now you must make up any

story you please to account for my absence. I shall have it given out at the works that I have

gone to Scotland on business, but the after de-

tails I must leave to you."

That night the train, as it passed through Maitland, bore away Ivan Istrovitch, but the man who boarded the Antwerp steamer at New York at noon of that day and took possession of the stateroom for which he had telegraphed from Wilmington, was a swarthy, black-haired, full-bearded man; and the name signed on the steamer's register was Nicholas Lundgren.

Secure in his disguise, he went straight from Antwerp to St. Petersburg, to the friend who had written to him of his father's arrest, told him who he was, and received from him full accounts of his father's misfortunes. He had been employed as counsel for a nihilist accused of plotting against the life of the Czar. Becoming interested in a professional way in the case, he had argued its defense with all the intensity of which he was capable, and had even gone so far as to spend his own money in hiring witnesses for the accused. But all was of no avail, and the unfortunate man was condemned to die upon the scaffold. The wretch, incensed at his fate, and vowing revenge, swore that the man who had so nobly defended him was alike guilty with him. With the rope around his neck, and death and the other world staring him in the face, he boldly avowed that the old lawyer was a sworn nihilist, and that he had worked so ably for him solely because he was one of the Brotherhood, and he died with the lie upon his lips.

No other testimony was required. The old barrister's long life of honesty and fidelity to his country went for nothing against the lying rants of a criminal, and he was seized and imprisoned, his property confiscated, and himself, after the merest shadow of a trial, had been condemned to hard labor for life in the coal mines of Saghalien.

Istrovitch was well-nigh stunned when the enormity of the injustice done his father dawned upon him, and for a time he was so excited that his friend feared that he would bring the police in upon them both; but at length he became sufficiently calm to discuss a plan which his friend thought might possibly result in the rescue of his father. All night they talked, and as morning was breaking Ivan rose to depart.

"One moment," said his friend; and, unlocking the door of a large closet he showed it to be filled with clothes, books, silver, china, portraits and other pictures, a desk and chair, and other articles which Ivan recognized as belonging to his father.

"A sale was held last week," remarked his friend, simply, "of your father's effects, and I instructed my agents to buy these things for me. I knew you would like to have them, and as soon as possible I shall ship them to your wife. If your father ever reaches America they



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of Alexandrovskii, where his father had been taken. During these voyages he was constantly thrown in contact with the other jailors who had the prisoners in charge, and at last he ventured to ask one of them if he knew anything of barrister Istrovitch who had been sent to the island from St. Petersburg a year or two before. To his great joy the man did know him, and assured him that he was still alive. Ivan dared ask no more for fear of exciting the other's curiosity as to his reasons for wishing to know, but his relief was so intense that he had much difficulty in hiding his happiness.

At last fortune favored him in the death, during a voyage, of one of the under jailors. It was necessary to at once supply his place, and Ivan was placed in charge of the prisoners until they should reach their journey's end. So well did he perform his duties, and so heartily did he curse and even strike the men that the authorities congratulated themselves on the acquisition of a man after their own hearts, and made his appointment permanent.

Ivan now had free access to the prison, but cautiously refrained from disclosing his presence to his father, although he had frequent opportunities of seeing him, and his pitiable plight made his hands clench and his heart burn with agony that he was still powerless to relieve him. At last the head jailor was recalled, and our friend, who had shown himself a model jailor by his harshness to the prisoners, was given his place. It was now his duty to superintend operations in the torture chamber, and his heart was often wrung by the scenes of suffering which he was powerless to prevent or even to ameliorate. Daily he was obliged to witness the death of some poor wretch under torture or on the whipping board. He could do nothing now, but he secretly took notes of all that went on, and even made photographs of the scenes that so revolted him.

At last one day his father, worn to a shadow of his former self, a wreck in body and mind, was brought in to be flogged because he was unable to accomplish his appointed task in the mines. Ivan ground his teeth and dug his nails into his hands until the blood came to keep a restraint upon himself. His father was bound upon the whipping board, but fainted, as he felt sure he would, after the first three or four strokes.

"Fools!" shouted Ivan, "dolts! idiots! You need the lash yourselves. Could you not see that the blows should be more temperate in this case? Now you have killed him before his punishment was complete. Go, you pigs, go, or I'll kill you for your stupidity!" and the men fled precipitately, leaving Ivan alone with his father.

In an agony he bent over him, fearing that his chiding words to the men were indeed true, but even as he looked the eyelids quivered, opened, and the old man looked up at him with a growing fear in his eyes. Ivan could not bear it.

"Father," he whispered in his ear, "father, do not fear. I am Ivan, your son, Ivan, father, do you hear? I am your son, and nothing shall ever harm you any more. Hush! Do not say a word, for your life." And quickly lifting him from the whipping board he bore him to a cell opening from the chamber and laid him on a cot. Here, after administering restoratives, he locked him in, cautioning him not to make the slightest noise, and, going to his own house, sought his two servants—a man and a woman who had been convicts, but whose time had expired. He had been able to secretly show them some small kindnesses, and they never forgot it, and were ready to serve him to the death if necessary. Ivan told them briefly that he found his father in the prison, nearly dead, and needed their help to get him away.

As soon as darkness favored them they carried the old man from the prison to his son's house, where they concealed him, and then, making a dummy, they clothed it in his clothing and summoned the men who disposed of dead bodies to cremate it as usual.

Days and weeks went by, and still Ivan kept his father in concealment, watching for a chance to get him away, but none had yet offered. Freed from his incessant toil and constant fear of punishment, with warm clothing and abundant food, the old man was gradually regaining strength both of body and mind, and was happy in the presence of his son, who had told him the whole story of his search for him, and of whom, since he understood the necessity for his apparent harshness and cruelty in the prison, he had ceased to be afraid.

One night, however, about nine o'clock, his servants came to him with horror in their eyes, to say that they had just overheard a conversation between the prison inspector and an under jailer which showed them that Ivan's attempts at taking notes of prison affairs and photographing prison scenes had been observed, and that he was to be arrested and his premises searched the next morning. No time was to be lost, and as soon as the old man could be roused and dressed in his warmest clothing, for the time was December and the cold was intense, Ivan carefully disposed of his notes, photographs and money on his own person, and, taking the two servants with them, they started in a dog team for Langra, on the northern shore of the island. They travelled at a gallop, changing the dogs as often as possible, it needing only his own name as jailer of the prison to procure them fresh relays. The next night they reached Langra, and were so fortunate as to find a vessel on the point of starting for the main land. Here they again took dog teams for Corea, and after incredible toil and difficulty succeeded in reaching the seashore and catching a steamer for Yokohama. The danger was now over, and the various voyages which lay between the travellers and the far-away American home proved a much-needed rest to the worn-out Ivan.

From Yokohama he sent a telegram to his wife, and from San Francisco another to his friend in S. Petersburg, telling of their safety.

We can imagine but not describe the meeting between husband and wife in New York after their five long years of separation. Heaven had been kind to them, and not one was missing from the happy family that gathered around the open fire in their home in Maitland that wild, wet Easter eve. The old grandfather, his eyes wet and shining, was in their midst, and as he sat in his own old chair, and gazed at his familiar books and pictures scattered about the pleasant room he leaned forward and his trembling hands grasped those of his son and daughter.

"Ivan, Ritchie," he cried, "Now I know I am at home. Thank God, and thank you, my children, for all that you have done for me," and without another word the whole family, joining hands, sank to their knees and sent a voiceless prayer of thanks to Him who had safely led them through perilous ways to the glad light of another Easter day.

Sergeant Searles' Romance.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY COLONEL INGRAHAM.

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T was a camp scene of United States Cavalry and the sentinels that encircled the bivouac showed that there was danger abroad. The campfires burned brightly, the troopers, a hundred in number, were awaiting their supper and upon the faces of the men rested a look of anxiety and determination that indicated a knowledge of what was before them.

Apart a dozen paces were three officers, intent and thoughtful, as they watched a negro cook preparing their evening meal of venison, bacon, hoecakes and coffee. Just as the cook announced supper a horseman rode into the arc of firelight, dismounted and rapidly approached the three officers, who turned to greet him, the Captain calling out:

"Ah, Sergeant, I am glad to see you, for we were becoming anxious about you."

The Sergeant saluted and replied quickly:

"There was cause for anxiety, sir, for I had a very close call, the closest of my life," and the

man swayed as though about to fall, seeing which, one of the three officers sprung to his side and said:

"Here, Sergeant, lie on this blanket and rest—why, you are wounded!"

"It is a trifle, sir, though it has bled freely and weakened me."

Stimulants were given the Sergeant, the surgeon looked to his wound, made by a bullet cutting its way through his thigh, and all watched the handsome sad face of the man, of whom nothing was known save that he had enlisted as a private soldier a year before and had won the regard and admiration of his officers and comrades. Of one thing all were assured, and that was that he had a history no one could fathom.

Of good physique, handsome face, courteous manners and possessing a fine education, as well as being thoroughly up in all military drill and rules, he was yet reserved, silent and seemed to carry ever in his heart a great grief.

A man who knew the frontier well, he had been made the guide of Captain Carney's troop when the scout who had left the fort with the command had been killed two days before.

Captain Carney and his command had been sent out to the rescue of a brother officer and half a hundred men who had been corralled by Indians and were forced to stand at bay.

The Sergeant, taking the place of scout and guide, had volunteered to go ahead and search for the soldiers at bay, while the command remained in camp and all were anxious regarding his fate when he rode into camp, wounded and worn out, by what he had passed through.

In a few words the Sergeant told his story, of how he had found the command of Captain Fred Anthony at bay in a well selected position, surrounded by a force of Indians that were five to one against his half hundred men. With only provisions for a short trail, the men were then living upon horsemeat and starvation and massacre were staring them in the face if relief did not reach them at once.

Killing an Indian chief, the Sergeant modestly told how he had put on his war bonnet and blanket, ridden through the encircling lines of redskins and made a sudden dash for the little fort, throwing off his disguise so as not to be shot by his own people.

Too late the redskins realized how they had been deceived and at once followed him with a charge, while the troopers, after at first firing upon him as a supposed chief, at once greeted him with yells of delight and set to work to resist the charge of the redskins.

This was successfully done and then Sergeant Searle found that Captain Anthony had been wounded, and having no surgeon with his force needed quick aid to save his life.

"You may not know, sir," he continued, addressing Captain Carney, "that I am a surgeon, having graduated in surgery and medicine and always carry a small case of instruments and medicine with me, hence I was able to extract the bullet from Captain Anthony's wound and leave him in comparative safety and comfort for at least awhile."

"And how did you get away, Sergeant Searle?" asked Captain Carney.

"I had to run the gauntlet of course, sir, and was so fortunate as to be successful, though both my horse and myself were wounded. I was aided by a feint being made by the troopers, as though intending to cut their way through; but it fooled the redskins and gave me a chance to get away and reach you, sir, and I have to report that I do not believe our comrades can hold out another day, as many are wounded, half a dozen have been killed, two-thirds of their horses are dead or wounded, while their last drop of water is gone and I fear for Captain Anthony unless he receives prompt attention."

"I can guide you tonight to the spot, sir, show you where the Indians have their ponies pastured under a small guard, and we can capture them, then dash to the rescue of the captain and his men by catching the redskins afoul and severely punishing them."

"Sergeant Searle, I have often said that many a man in the ranks was better fitted to command than some of the officers placed over them, and you are an example as proof of my argument; but are you able to go tonight, for you have just come off of a long hard ride and your wound is not so slight as you would have us believe?"

"I can stand it, sir, and especially does the life of Captain Anthony depend upon our getting there. It is forty miles away and we can strike the Indians by dawn—we must save Captain Anthony, sir."

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A POSITIVE CURE FOR Sciatica, Gout, Neuralgia, La Grippe, Asthma, Catarrh, Croup, Backache, Lumbago, Headache, Toothache, Earache, Hay Fever, Liver Complaints, Dyspepsia, Kidney Troubles, Malaria, Heart Weakness, Paralysis, Eczema, Sleeplessness, Creeping Numbness, and any other Diseases of the Blood, Nerves and Muscles.

THE BEST REMEDY IN THE WORLD FOR LIVER AND KIDNEY TROUBLES

"5-DROPS" co-operates with the stomach actions, and a healthy digestion is therefore certain. It restores the liver to a normal condition more quickly than any other known remedy. It cleanses the kidneys removing from the blood the impure matter produced in it through improper action of the kidneys. It never fails to remove the poisons which are invariably the cause of the disease.

FREE TO ALL A trial bottle will be given free of charge to every reader of this paper who is a sufferer from any of the above named diseases. All that we ask in return is that you take it as directed, and you will find it all that we claim. It costs you nothing, and you need feel under no obligations whatever in securing the trial treatment which we offer. Here is an opportunity to test a remedy without any expense to you. Certainly nothing can be fairer than this. Cut out the Coupon and send to us with your name and address.

NOTE.—Large size bottle (300 doses) will be sent prepaid to any address for \$1.00. If it is not obtainable in your town, order of us direct. Agents Wanted.

WARNING. If any unprincipled dealer offers you a substitute for "5-DROPS" don't accept it. No other remedy will do its work. It contains no opiates in any form. No alcohol; no salicylates to ruin the stomach, or any drugs which only deaden the pain and never effect a cure. It is perfectly harmless and can be taken by a child as well as an adult.

SWANSON RHEUMATIC CURE CO., 160-164 LAKE ST., CHICAGO, ILL.

NOTICE—Swanson's "5-DROPS" is a household remedy that every family should have, and we advise our readers to take advantage of the liberal offer made by SWANSON RHEUMATIC CURE CO., and secure A TRIAL BOTTLE FREE OF CHARGE. Cut out the coupon and write them at once.

COUPON

No. 11000.

Cut this out and send it with your name and address to Swanson's Rheumatic Cure Co., Chicago, and you will be sent a bottle of "5-DROPS" free, postpaid.



OMENS AND FORERUNNERS OF CONSUMPTION

An Eminent Scientist's Free Weapons of Defense.

Certain symptoms and conditions announce the approach of fatal disease as surely as the first, faint blushes of dawn herald the mighty orb of day.

Symptoms or signs which point to decline of the general powers of the body and appear to defy precaution or ordinary treatment, must be seriously regarded as signs and forerunners of some grave disease—usually Consumption. Some of these indications and forerunners are:

Progressive Catarrh,
Weak Lungs, after Pneumonia, Pleurisy, etc.
Bronchial Asthma,
Cough, dry or moist,
Tonsillitis,
Laryngitis,
Bronchitis,
Hemorrhage, throat or lung,
Faulty Nutrition,
Wasting Flesh,
Blood Taint,
Blood Impoverishment,
Night Sweats,
Pallor,
Delusively Rosy Cheeks,
Chest Pains,
Burning Sensation in Lungs,
Rapid Pulse,
Glandular Abscesses,
Extreme Lassitude,
Want of Energy,
Unaccountable Fatigue,
Suppressed Functions,
Sinking Spells,
Nervous Fever and Chills,
Nervous Exhaustion, etc.

When you observe the sign of disease in advance, await not the attack. Avoid the evil by using the wonderful free weapons of defense manufactured in the great laboratories of Dr. Slocum, in New York City and sent by him all over the land free to predisposed and actual victims of Consumption's grasp.

FOUR GREAT FREE REMEDIES.

I.—**THE EMULSION.**—This great germicidal and building preparation repairs and rebuilds impaired tissues, protects while it builds, and fortifies the whole system against consumption's germs.

II.—**THE EXPECTORANT.**—This removes lung obstructions and makes breathing easy.

Modern Smuggling.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



LL smugglers are not swarthy, piratical chaps. This idea should be dispelled from the mind of the ordinary reader. A trip with one of the customs officers by the writer, while he listened to the "declarations" of the passengers on an ocean steamer, and a subsequent call on my general friend revealed many strange stories of attempts to cheat Uncle Sam.

When the inspector boards a steamer he assembles all the passengers in the cabin and proceeds to take their statements.

"Have you any new or dutiable goods to declare?" is the first question launched.

The listener is a woman. Smuggling is as natural as love to a woman and the chances are two to one that the fair creature before us has a selected assortment of things that she wants to get through the Custom House without paying duties thereon. She has compromised with her conscience by selling the whole contents of her trunks to a fellow passenger, also a woman, for one cent. Consequently she can swear that she has no dutiable goods in her possession and remarks to herself as she does so that they all belong to her friend.

She is a trifle nervous in spite of her efforts to appear calm, and the inspector makes a mysterious mark on the document to which she has sworn. These inspectors are good judges of human nature and can generally determine whether a person is lying or telling the truth.

The inspector evidently enjoys her sufferings, cruel man that he is.

"Have you any gloves, piece goods, or presents for anybody?"

"No, that is, none that amount to anything."

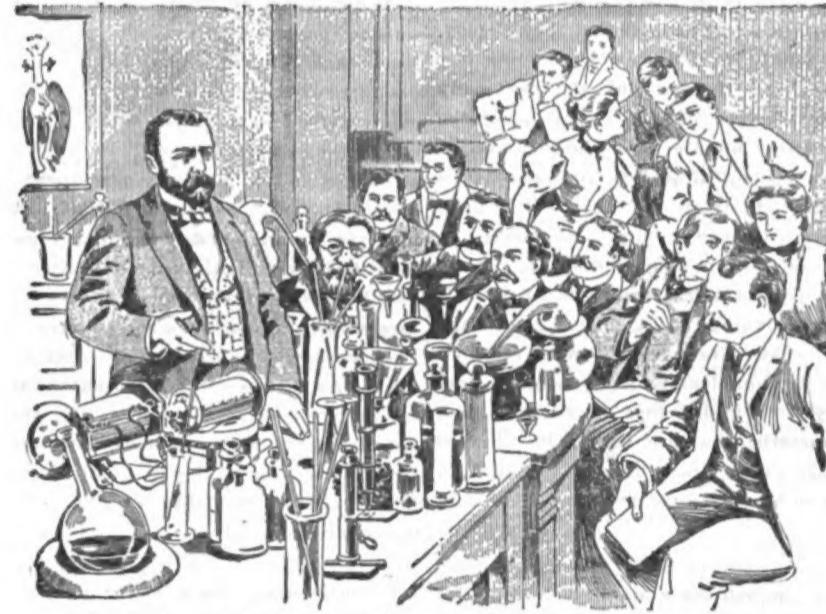
"Well, what have you? Please give me the list."

"I have a few gloves, just a few, for my own use and I've two or three trifles to give to my nephews and nieces."

"How many gloves have you, and what are the presents for your relatives?"

"I have a dozen gloves in a box and two or three pairs loose in my trunks; I can't tell exactly how many. The presents are some toys and other trifles that cost very little in Paris and London. Whenever I saw anything that I thought would please the children I bought it."

As the inquisition goes on her nervousness increases and quite likely she would give all the goods she is trying to smuggle if she could only escape the ordeal. The inspector makes up his mind very soon that her baggage will need careful attention, and before dismissing her he makes another cabalistic mark on the paper to which she had sworn and affixed her signature.



DR. SLOCUM, THE EMINENT SCIENTIST OF NEW YORK CITY, INSTRUCTING PHYSICIANS AND STUDENTS IN BACTERIOLOGY.

III.—**THE TONIC.**—This is a powerful restorative not a stimulant.

IV.—**The Cure for Catarrh** never fails to cure.

The four remedies combined, including the wonderful Emulsion, form the most potent and successful treatment with which to fore-stall and prevent, or to combat and cure Consumption. This treatment fortifies any system against any disease of wasting tendency; it restores the powers of the body which enable it to resist the germs of disease.

Some need only the Emulsion, the Expectorant or the Tonic; others require all four preparations, according to particular existing conditions.

WRITE FOR FREE TRIAL.

Through the rare liberality of Dr. Slocum, all four of the above remedies are free to those who are threatened by or are afflicted with Consumption or other wasting malady.

To obtain these four free preparations, that have never yet failed to cure, all you have to do is to write to

DR. T. A. SLOCUM, 98 PINE ST., NEW YORK,

and you will be at once sent the four free preparations, with full directions. You may as well be one of the increasing army annually saved by modern medical science.

EDITOR'S NOTE.—When writing the Doctor, please mention COMFORT, giving express and post office address, and greatly oblige.

Yours very respectfully, S. T. LEIDY.

Unsolicited Testimonials.

DENNISON, OHIO,
Nov. 28, 1901.

DR. T. A. SLOCUM.

Dear Sir: I will write you a letter of recommendation of your treatment. I thought I would wait till I was sure I was benefited. I only weighed 135 lbs. when I commenced taking your treatment and now my weight is 193 lbs. and the old weakness is all gone, and I feel like a new man. I had given up all hope of getting well till your treatment convinced me that there was a cure for weak lungs. Willing to answer all letters from anybody who wants to refer to me.

I remain thankful and sincerely yours. Asking a reply to this letter. CHAS. R. SNYDER, P. S. Have my letters addressed to Dennison, as I am living there.

518 Dasher St.,
VALDOSTA, GA.,
Nov. 19, 1901.

DR. T. A. SLOCUM.

Dear Sir: Will you please pardon me for not writing before now? It is with pleasure that I write to inform you of the great good your medicine has accomplished for me. I have been restored to a perfect condition of health and strength, and I feel that you have saved my life. There is no medicine in the world like your remedies, and I cannot say enough in their praise.

Yours truly, OBIE BRYANT.

SKYLAND, S. C.,
Dec. 3, 1901.

DR. T. A. SLOCUM.

Dear Sir: I have received your medicine and it did me more good than any medicine that I have ever taken. I have been entirely cured of all my diseases, and I think it a God-send and a blessing to all suffering humanity. I wrote you some time ago but you did not receive my letter. So you may print my name as you please, but I will greatly thank others of your good medicine and wonderful cure, and how it cured me, for I did not think I could live, or that I would be alive today, but I am well and enjoying good health.

Yours truly, MRS. PEARL A. ROOKARD.

TIPPIN, OHIO,
Nov. 24, 1901.

DR. T. A. SLOCUM.

I am in receipt of your letter reminding me of my neglect. In replying would say, I am at present using the Emulsion and Catarrh Cure purchased from a local druggist, and am pleased to say I am greatly benefited. I think it just what I have been looking for as my hearing is a thousand per cent. better. I can hear a clock tick for the first time in six years. Thanking you for your samples, I am

Yours very respectfully, S. T. LEIDY.

The above are from among the hundreds of testimonials received daily. The merits of the Slocum Remedies have been fully proven.

it must have been actually worn.

"I've worn every one of my dresses," she says emphatically. "I've dined at least once in every evening dress and as for the morning dresses they've had their share of use. I've been abroad before and have acted in good faith towards the Custom House in every way. Here is a list of all the things I bought while abroad and everything has been in use or is not in excessive quantity."

The officer marks the paper with a smile which says in very plain language that it is evident that the passenger knows exactly what she is about and is complying with the law to the letter.

So they go, one by one, till all have made their declarations. Meantime the steamer is moving on to her pier and is swung to where she is to lie until the day of her departure. The gang-plank is put out and the passengers impatiently walk ashore to the dock. The baggage is brought ashore and piled on the dock, and each passenger is instructed to get all his belongings together and then apply to the chief of the dock inspectors for an examiner.

Oddly enough the first passenger to apply for an examiner is our nervous female friend, on whose "declaration" the inspector had made mysterious marks. His suspicions were well founded. When her baggage is examined it yields handsomely. Instead of one box of gloves she has five boxes each containing a dozen pairs, and she has four dozen pairs of gloves scattered among her gowns and other garments.

Every sleeve contains a pair of gloves, and sometimes two pairs, and she has gloves, handkerchiefs and lace collars and the like, stitched inside the lining of a quilted petticoat. She has two dresses that have been "cut and basted" but not finished, and she has a goodly array of silk stockings and other feminine articles.

The trifling presents intended for her nephews and nieces resolve into several products of the milliner's art that are intended

for the wedding of a niece who is to become a bride within the next fortnight. Some of them may be "trifles light as air" but nevertheless they cost a good deal of money.

As one after another of these costly things that were not on the "declaration" are brought forth from their hiding place the woman turns red and pale by turns and her strength leaves her to the extent that she is compelled to sit down to avoid falling to the floor.

Yonder is a woman whose appearance is portly while her face is rather thin. She is one of the passengers who has just landed and declared that she had no dutiable goods in her possession. Her face and form are not harmonious as such a plump figure does not belong to that delicately moulded face. Keep an eye on her and see what happens.

Her trunks are examined and evidently she told the truth as there is nothing dutiable to be found. All her dresses have been worn a sufficient number of times to comply with the law and she hasn't many dresses any way. But before marking her trunks the officer asks her to follow him for a moment. The pallor of her face increases and she evidently doesn't respond gladly to the invitation.

But she follows to the room which is set apart for personal examinations and is received by a mild-mannered woman whose nose is bridged with a pair of eye-glasses. She is exceedingly polite and as soon as the two are within the room and the door is locked she re-

quests the traveller to remove her dress. The stranger obeys while the other apologizes for the trouble she is making and explains that it is owing to information that has been received concerning some laces which were to arrive about this time. The removal of the dress shows that the work is not in vain, for concealed beneath it were enough laces to set up a small shop on Broadway, together with silks, gloves and other things which were quilted into a petticoat or deftly wound around the waist of the fair traveller.

Half an hour after entering the examination room the woman emerges and is allowed to claim her baggage and leave the dock. She might be detained and sent to prison for violating the revenue laws but the Custom House does not often enforce this part of its duties, except in the case of old and professional offenders. This woman, whose plumpness has vanished and whose dress now hangs about her like a closed umbrella, is a novice in smuggling and was betrayed by her anxiety of manner and by the circumstances that her form and face were not properly matched. The inspectress shows as the result of the examination a pile of heterogeneous and costly articles.

A few years ago one of the passengers on a steamer from Liverpool to New York was an elderly gentleman who was a general favorite among the passengers. He mingled much with the ladies, was delightful in conversation, had a fund of anecdotes of all kinds, and boasted that he knew all the ropes at the Custom House. He was not at all reticent about the dutiable goods that he expected to get through without the least trouble; he had an overcoat and a suit of clothes for a friend, in addition to several suits for himself, half a dozen watches and as many sets of jewelry, together with gloves and other nice things galore. He was everybody's friend and offered to make himself useful in aiding his new-found acquaintances to run the revenue gauntlet. Many accepted his offer and confidently told what they had in their possession; they gave confidence for confidence and something bordering very closely upon vows of eternal friendship were made if he succeeded in his efforts.

One of the passengers was a dressmaker of New York who had a clientele of fashionable people. The old gentleman was particularly attentive to her and intimated that he was a widower who wished to renew his former condition of double blessedness. As a practical test of his friendship he wanted to see her safely through the Custom House; he knew many of the Custom House people and if she got into any trouble he was the man of all others who could set things right.

The dressmaker confided to him that she had been abroad to buy dresses for several of her fashionable patrons and she had half a dozen trunks crowded with garments that were to appear in the best social circles in the following season. She then gave him the names of her customers.

"Oh, I know Mrs. So-and-so and Mrs. So-and-so and Miss Blank," said the elderly gentleman, "and there's nothing in the world I wouldn't do for them if I could. Make yourself perfectly easy about the dresses; I'll fix it so that your trunks won't even be opened when we get to the dock."

He was as good as his word. The trunks were not opened at the dock at all; they were,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9.)

Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



The great fight to down Tammany Hall in New York City, brought into prominence one of the most interesting characters in the modern arena of politics—Justice William Travers Jerome. He had brought himself into prominence by his vigor in furthering the raids and prosecution of gamblers, during the campaign of the citizen's Committee of Fifteen. He personally assisted in the raids and served his warrants in person when he had any doubt as to their being used effectively. The Justice held judicial inquiries in his court room which resulted in the indictment of many wardmen. When the Fusion ticket was nominated, Justice Jerome was chosen as the candidate for District Attorney. He made a campaign that well won and kept his name of the Fighting Justice. He was absolutely fearless and emphatic in his statement of the condition of affairs in New York. He made hundreds of speeches all up and down the "East Side" of New York. Wherever he was announced to speak, thousands would gather. From one hall to another he would tear in an automobile followed by others filled with reporters. Everywhere he roused tempestuous enthusiasm and when returns came in the Fighting Justice had received the heaviest vote on his ticket and a triumphant election to the District Attorneyship of New York. His term of office commences this month. It is safe to say that Justice Jerome will be heard from again. The people are thoroughly convinced of his absolute honesty and energy in the administration of public affairs. The Justice is a native born resident of New York City but has a love for country life. He has a fine country home in Connecticut. The house is lighted and heated by electricity and the electrical equipment was entirely put in by the Justice's own hands. He is devoted to mechanical pursuits and one room in his country home is fitted up as a workshop. He is also fond of experiments in chemistry. While fond of country life, the Justice is free to say that he prefers walking to golfing although he has fine links on his estate. The family consists of Mrs. Jerome, a young son, William Travers Jerome, Jr. who is known as "Chinky" and three dogs, a grayhound, a collie and a fox terrier. New York may expect a wise but aggressive administration of her criminal affairs at the hands of her new District Attorney.

William Loeb, President Roosevelt's private secretary, has won his way to what has grown to be an important position through merit and ability. Mr. Loeb is a native of Albany where almost his entire life has been passed. He is in his early thirties. At the age of twelve he was obliged to leave school and go to work. Two years after he was able to return to school and finish his course. A study of shorthand was followed by two years in a law office. He became interested in politics and finally was elected official stenographer to the New York Assembly. He later filled the position of secretary to many prominent state officials and became stenographer for Governor Roosevelt. He succeeded so well in pleasing the President that he was asked to accompany him to Washington when Mr. Roosevelt became President. He holds much the position that Secretary Cortelyou originally did, although that gentleman is also retained as the President's Secretary.

The Marchioness of Granby has seemingly all the good gifts that fairy godmothers could bestow. She already holds a proud title but in time will succeed to that proudest of English titles—duchess. Mere rank does not always convey distinction even in England but the Marchioness of Granby is a great lady even in that most critical of capi-

tals—London. It is not however her beauty, rank or wealth that makes her of great interest to the world but the fact that she is possessed of rare talent as an artist. Her line drawings of people are unique in their way. She may be said to be the only artist who has the command of line to produce the rare daintiness and strength that mark her portraits. She is one of the most sought for women socially in London and her portrait work is only incidental. Her life has thrown her into contact with the most prominent people in England and her ready pencil has drawn a likeness of these people in less than half an hour. Lady Granby's portraits are remarkable for the wonderful insight into character that they display. Her own family furnish her themes. She lost one son, Lord Hadden but she has many charming pictures of him as well as of the Ladies Victoria and Marjorie Manners and of her eldest son Lord Ross of Belvoir who is his father's heir. Rudyard Kipling, the Hon. Cecil Rhodes and Lord Salisbury are among the famous people whom Lady Granby has drawn. She is fond of the theater and there her pencil is often busy catching the likeness of some stage favorites. Lady Granby is tall with red-gold hair, white complexion and wonderful gray green eyes. Her drawings are as individual and characteristic as could be imagined, for the spirit that makes them unusual is found in every act of their talented maker.

General Sir Redvers Buller has been retired from the English army under a cloud. He made some statements concerning the details of the South African Campaign at a banquet given in his honor at Westminster. He stated that he advised General White to surrender Ladysmith. General Buller at that time was in supreme command in South Africa but had been repulsed at the Tugela River in an attempt to retain Ladysmith. General Buller was sent to South Africa with a great reputation won in India and Egypt but Africa proved to him as to others a grave for military reputation. His Victoria cross won for gallant deeds could not save him from adverse criticism, but the recent act of government in forcing him to retire on half pay has aroused much enthusiasm in his behalf in England and General Buller is quite the popular hero of the hour with the mass of the English people and of the army.

Tucheta is the Indian name of a talented young woman of the Cherokee nation. Her mother is a full-blooded Cherokee squaw, but her father is a German. Miss Ora V. Eddleman, or Lost Bird, as her Indian name signifies is but twenty years of age, but she is the proprietor and editor of a magazine called Twin Territories, which is devoted to the interests of Indian Territory and Oklahoma. Tucheta speaks the Cherokee language but she speaks German and English with equal fluency. Her education has been of the universal rather than the university type. When she was fourteen her father bought the only daily newspaper published in the territory. The young daughter was absorbed in all that related to the newspaper and soon left school to do the work of a reporter on this paper. She says, "One day I became city editor—a proud day for me." Her own magazine is almost entirely devoted to the interest of the Indian. It is filled with illustrations and scenes photographed in the Indian's home. Miss Eddleman occupies a unique position through her work and her nationality.

One of the recent popular books, "A Japanese Nightingale," is the work of a young woman who is of English and Japanese blood. Onoto Watanna is the daughter of an English consul who married a Japanese. She is one of a number of children but has attained distinction at the early age of twenty-three. Her father removed with his family to Toronto. On his second marriage Onoto Watanna learned typewriting and began the battle of life for herself. She went to Jamaica in the British West Indies where she was one of the first women to report the doings of Parliament. Later, she came to the United States where she married a native

of Kentucky, and made her home in Cincinnati. The encouragement of a prominent editor of that city led to her adopting literature as a profession. Many of her short stories have been published both here and in Japan and two short novels have met with an appreciative reception. Her home is now in Chicago.

Mrs. Edwin Gould is a young matron of four years' standing who has already proved that neither social success nor the prestige of the Gould millions can divert her from serious pursuits. Mrs. Gould was Miss Shady, daughter of the celebrated Dr. Shady. She makes her summer home at Ardsley and is naturally prominent in the social life of that well-known place. She has, however, from the first years of her marriage, identified herself with numerous charities. In aid of these she has planned and carried to a successful termination many entertainments. Her own home has been thrown open to aid in a fair for a hospital, and in December she managed a very successful affair at the Waldorf-Astoria for the benefit of a Sanatorium. Mrs. Gould is a beautiful young woman with a bright active personality and great force of character.

The celebrated French lawyer, Maitre Labori, will soon visit this country. He will be remembered through his connection with the world-famed Dreyfus trial and with that of the great French novelist Zola. Madame Labori has had as interesting a life as her husband. She is a woman remarkable for her beauty and charm. As Miss Maggie Okey she was well known in the musical world of London. Her mother kept a boarding house in the West End of London. Labori and Pachman, the great pianist, lived here and both were suitors for the hand of their landlady's daughter. She chose Vladimir de Pachman and as Madame de Pachman Miss Okey played at many of the best concerts in London and Paris. In spite of the mutual interest in music the marriage proved unhappy and the bonds were severed in this country. Returning to Europe Miss Okey met and married her old lover M. Labori. The union has proved very happy. Her musical ability is exhibited still for the entertainment of friends.

The Northwestern University of Chicago enrolls in its medical department a student who is no less a person than Princess Sophia Bamba Dhuleep Lingh, daughter of the late Maharajah of Lahore. A year ago this Indian Princess made a tour of the world and visited the different medical schools. She then determined to take the full four years' course at the Woman's Medical College, although it is doubtful if the government of India will allow her to return to her native land. The Princess is about twenty-eight years of age and fairly good looking, with a clear olive complexion and black hair. She came here from England, bringing as companions two great dogs, a great Dane and a Russian wolf hound. The Princess thought America was democratic and consequently was much astonished to find that her English maid was not allowed to sit in her place at the table when the Princess was absent. The Princess's eldest brother is married to an English lady, Lady Ann Coventry. The Princess is given to wearing gowns of thin India muslin and many gold bracelets. She dislikes any artificial light except that of lamps.

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est fabrics. The decorated
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After 2,000 experiments, I have learned how to cure Rheumatism. Not to turn bony joints into flesh again; that is impossible. But I can cure the disease always, at any stage, and forever.

Take for no money. Simply write me a postal card and I will send you an order on your nearest druggist for six bottles of Dr. Shoop's Rheumatic Cure, for every druggist keeps it. Use it for a month, and if it does what I claim pay your druggist \$5.50 for it. If it doesn't, I will pay him myself.

I have no samples. Any medicine that can affect Rheumatism with but a few doses must be drugged to the verge of danger. I use no such drugs. It is folly to take them. You must get the disease out of the blood.

My remedy does that, even in the most difficult obstinate cases. No matter how impossible this seems to you. I know it and I take this risk. I have cured tens of thousands of cases in this way, and my records show that 39 out of 40 who get those six bottles pay, and gladly. I have learned that people in general are honest with a physician who cures them. That is all I ask. If I fail I don't expect a penny from you.

Simply write me a postal card or letter. Let me send you an order for the medicine; also a book. Take it for a month, for it won't harm you anyway. If it cures pay \$5.50. I leave that entirely to you. Address Dr. Shoop, Box 304, Racine, Wis.

Mild cases, not chronic, are often cured by one or two bottles. At all druggists.

A missionary is returning to the Gola country in the center of Africa whose life sounds like a romance. The missionary is an earnest educated Christian bearing the name of Wesley Putman. Seven years ago he made his way out of the Gola country and travelled five hundred miles to see the "Big Water" and the "White Men". Naked, ignorant, he fell into the hands of Mr. Putman, a missionary. Bishop Turner visited the land and sent the colored lad to America to be educated. The Gola savage seemed to possess some Yankee traits for he took a dollar and a half that was given him and by judicious investment in peanuts and apples he established a trade that enabled him to leave the school at Normal, Alabama, with a capital of some few hundred dollars. He will return to his own people as a missionary.

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Examine them at your express office and as represented pay express
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lens and big book of instructions. Camera takes pictures 4x6.
A strictly high grade, up-to-date
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Porous Plasters. We want
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Shaving Set packed in a case eight inches long, six inches wide
and five inches high. The combination consists of 1 Royal Steel
Swedish Razor, single value, \$2.00; Genuine Horsehair Double
Shave, value \$1.00; 1 Real China Shaving Mug; 1 Cake Perfumed
Lather; 1 Stick rich perfumed Cosmetic, making a grand
set combination. Every man should have an outfit in the
house for emergency. A woman should see to it
that either her Father, her Husband, her Brother or her
Sweetheart has one of these outfit. They make the best
present one can give to a gentleman.

Don't wait but send to-day for Plasters. One agent sold the six
minutes. Address
THE G. O. PLASTER CO., Box 1280, Augusta, Maine.

COMFORT.



Voracious Records of the Doin's in the Cobb Corner Postoffice, "Writ out" by the Boy Behind the Counter.

(EDITOR'S NOTE.—The quaint philosophers, the dry wags, the shrewd dickerers and the eminent yarn-spinners of the countryside make a forum of the country postoffice when there is room at the rear around the big stove. The stories and incidents on which some of the most successful human interest novels of the day are constructed come from the quaint loungers around the stores in Yankee communities. These official records of "Jeth's Crowd" are to be taken down month by month for the readers of *Comfort* and we hope that as you become acquainted with the members of the "Congress" your interest in their discourse and stories will deepen.)

"**T**HE Nited States govement will come down here and swat you once mighty plenty, Jeth," remarked Teed Strout to The Postmaster.

The Postmaster peered through his wicket. His specs were on the end of his nose. He was holding his thumb to the tip of his tongue seeking a little moisture to assist in sealing over the letters that he was distributing.

"Jest where in particular is your bite itchin' today, Teed?" he asked satirically.

"Tom ding ye, ye went and put that postal card in my box, message side up," Strout snapped. "Prob'lly 'fore this time ha'f the old Skeedoobles in town have read it."

"Ser'ous bus'niss, ser'ous bus'niss, Teed," chirped The Postmaster, adding, "Twa'n't a p'intment to the Chinese Empire as embassadore, was it?"

Strout put his face close to the wicket. "Drat ye, don't ye sass me," he snarled. "Ye're nothin' but Uncle Sam's hired man, anyway, and the people hire Uncle Sam and we can git ye bounced any time."

"This office pays the princely sum of one hundred and thutty-five dollars a year," said The Postmaster, drily. "Less ye git your powder awful cheap 'tain't wuth while to fire me, is it?"

"Wal, when ye don't handle my mail right," persisted Strout, "I'll have ye fired if I have to sell a heifer caff and go to Washington for pose."

The Postmaster went at his work again.

"When ye go to Washington," he suggested, "better take along your postal card and them three blood renovator circulars ye got two months ago. That will show the govement how big your mail runs in the course of a year. When Roosyvelt sees that pile he will prob'lly have ye up to dinner. Seem's if I can see you and Ted walkin' along to the White House together discussin' the best policy for Cobb's Corner and the Philippines—Ted carryin' two pounds of steak under his arm. You'll have a good time. But what was on your old postal card anyway, that you're so fussy?"

Strout did not reply, but The Postmaster went on: "I know what it was. 'Twas a notice sayin' your two-gallon jug had got along to the express office. Goin' to stand treat, Teed?"

The Postmaster chuckled and Strout, looking rather confused, shuffled away to the rear of the store where The Crowd was assembled. As he walked away he muttered: "I can see where there's goin' to be a clean sweep in this office, and I'll handle the broom."

"Speakin' of brooms," shouted The Postmaster, "how's your whisk?"

Then he laughed with a big "Haw, haw, haw-w-w?"

"What's Jeth gettin' off on ye?" inquired Uncle Sam, the dean of the Cobb Corner Crack-barrel Congress.

"He'll be gettin' off his job pretty quick," growled Strout as he ground his tobacco between his palms. His pipe dangled at one corner of his mouth. "Some men," he continued, "when they git a job with the 'Nited States govement think right off that they're the biggest hunk of meat in the chowder. But I'll show him whuther I've got influence or not. If the govement don't use us jest right here at Cobb's Corner we can take holt and swing the place Democratic sure'n Judas Iscariot had asbestos whiskers."

Teed jammed the tobacco into his pipe with much energy.

"Jeth's gittin' so he thinks that he's a reg'lar dictator," whined old Wack Spofford, rubbing his cane head through his scrubby beard. "Next thing he'll be wantin' us to give him the nayshunal salute when he sweeps off the postoffice platform."

"When they changed the stage leavin' time a while ago Jeth had to git up at four mornin's and close the mail bags. Fust mornin' I heered a terrible wheltin' on my back door right yonder there. Says I to mother, 'Who in tunket's round here this time o' mornin'?' 'Twa'n't ha'f past three. 'Land o' Goshen,' says she, 'it must be some of Marshy's folks and she's prob'lly been took wuss.' And still that wheltin'-tibang kept a goin'."

"Wal, I got on my pants quick's I could in the dark and went to the door holdin' them up with both hands. 'Who is it?' says I. 'Postmaster Hackett,' says he. 'What's wanted?' says I. 'Hev' ye tackled a stamp ye can't lick?' 'Giv up,' says he, 'and come across into the postoffice jest's quick's ye can.'

"Wal, I hustled over, for I didn't know what in tunket might be up. There was Jeth standin' there side of a mail bag. 'Keep your eye on me,' says he. I didn't know what in time it all meant but I watched him like a cat watches a mouse. He put some money into envelope and seals 'em up and tucks 'em into the bag. Then he locks the bag and kicks it out of the door where the stage driver could get it. 'See me

do that, didn't ye?' says he. 'I did,' says I, 'but what in fury nation is it all about?' 'The 'Nited States govement,' says he, 'is the biggest thing on the face of the earth and the man that is a 'Nited States official like I am has to keep his eye peeled. Now the rules provide that when the postmaster sends away his returns and his registered letters some unprejudiced witness must see him put 'em into the bags.'

"Ye don't mean to tell me," says I, "that ye've routed me out of bed this time in the mornin' jest to see ye juggle with some cussed old mail bags?"

"I'll report ye to the 'Nited States govement," says he, "if ye talk that way about the great nayshunal mail service. Furthermore, I'm libble to call on ye any mornin' now to act as an unprejudiced witness. In the name of the 'Nited States govement I command ye to hold yourself in readiness for all such calls. And I want ye to be pleasant about it, too. If ye come growlin' in here I'll have the postmaster-general send down one of them secret service fellers and you won't sincerely know what's happened to ye when he git in your hair."

"I don't know jest what the laws is," concluded Wack plaintively, "but it's kind o' tough to have one of them blame govement dictators right here grindin' your nose into the dirt." He made a bull's-eye in the sawdust box with a graceful parabola.

The Postmaster came along at this juncture and put another stick of wood on the fire in the barrel stove.

"Ef ye only had bushy tail to go along with that growl-growl of yours, Wack," said The Postmaster, "I'd hire ye for a dog to watch the office nights. What's the matter now?"

"I'm tellin' the boys about your routin' me out to look on while you played tag with a mail bag t'other mornin'," grumbled old Wack.

"You've set there thutty years behind that stove chawin' terbacker on one side and the principles of the Republican party on the other," shouted The Postmaster, "and it's time for ye to be payin' a little rent by chorin' for me once 'n' while. P'raps you fellers don't think I have troubles of my own jest the same as you do! P'raps you think that bein' a fourth-class postmaster is somethin' like actin' as understudy for J. Pierpont Morgan in the cowponcuttin' business. You fellers that buy a gallon of kairosene a month and think that you are boostin' the dividends of the Standard Oil company and makin' an independent fortune for me remind me of old Sile Bunker. Time of the Civil War he wrote to President Lincoln and asked Abe to send along money enough so that he could run up to Washington. Said that in ten minutes he could arrange it so that the whole war would be stopped. President wrote back that he felt sure Sile could stop the war and personally he was in favor of sendin' for him but he said that as usual he couldn't do anything with Sewall; Sewall was bound to fight. Sile died pretty soon after the war was over. Used to say that it made him fairly sick to figger what that war cost and then to reflect that if he could only have had ten minutes talk with Lincoln he could have saved the whole sum. He got peak-ed over it and dropped away. There was another thing that was kind of a shock and helped kill him off, I expect."

"Sile used to shingle houses for a livin'. One day right after the war closed and when banks were kind o' unsteady for a spell, Sile was shinglin' the passageway here in the village. A man came along and got into talk with the minister who was workin' in the garden. While Sile was stuffin' a new load of nails into his mouth he overheard the man say that there was a rumor down in the next town that the Hog Holler Nayshunal bank had failed."

"Wal, s'r, Sile give a hoot and a beller and fired his hammer one way and his nail box the other. Then he giv' a leap plumb off the roof and lit right between that man and the minister.

"He grabbed the man by the lappels of his co't. He shook him.

"Do ye mean to say," yelled Sile, "that the Hog Holler bank has failed?"

"Wal, so I heerd—so I heerd," the man stuttered.

"Sile give one more hoot and started off up the ro'd in a cloud of dust. Said they never see'd a man run so hard as he did. Went out of sight with the man and the minister standin' watchin' him with their tongues run out.

"In about half an hour he come back ridin' in the back of Jas. Jephson's wagon. He was lookin' cheerful as a cricket. When he come into the yard the minister asked, 'In the name of mercy and forgivin' grace, Mister Bunker, what did you tear away so sudden for?'

"I've been home," said Sile. "Scart me pretty nigh to death when I heerd that bank

had failed."

"Did you have bank-notes issued by it?" the minister asked. It was always supposed around the village that Sile was poorer 'n Poodic and so the minister commenced to take interest.

"I'm sort of careless about my money matters," explained Sile. "I couldn't remember what I had for bills. I run all the way home and I overtook and passed sev'ral mighty good horses on the road, too. They asked me to ride, the men did, but I told 'em I didn't have the time to spare. I run into the house. Mother see me comin' and was at the door. I didn't notice her tryin' to open the door and I knocked her down by accident when the door flamed back. She hollered bloody murder but I couldn't stop then. In jest two jumps I was upstairs and in the bed room where we keep the big chist. I dug right down into it and got hold of the wallet where we keep our money."

"Did you find any of the bills on that bank?" gasped the minister.

"Not a bill on that bank and none on any other bank, nuther," said Sile. "There wa'n't a thing in the wallet. I remembered then that we hadn't had anything laid by in the money line for more'n few year. I tell ye 'twas the greatest relief I ever felt in my life."

The Postmaster was obliged to go to the print counter at this juncture. Aunt Mirandy Bond wanted fifteen yards of a blue figured piece that her cousin had told her about. The Postmaster measured it off, nose and arm method.

"Jest fifteen yards," said he.

"I'll take it," said Aunt Mirandy.

"I can't let you have the whole piece," objected the Postmaster. "I sha'n't have any more left in the store if ye take it. I'll split the thing with ye."

"Wal, ye can order more, can't ye?" snapped Aunt Mirandy.

"I've sold so much of this kind of pattern," said the Postmaster, "that I reckon the demand must be pretty well-cl'yed by this time. I don't dast to order another whole piece but still I shall want a little in the store in stock. So I'll have to skinch ye down to about seven or eight yards. Shall I measure it off?"

But Aunt Mirandy allowed that she guessed she would try to get a whole pattern out to the Center.

"I'm sorry, Aunt Mirandy, that I can't accommodate ye," said the Postmaster when he put the print back on the shelf. "But store rules has to be observed to the letter if ye're goin' to do a reg'lar and legitimate bus'ness."

Before the Postmaster went back to the rear of the store he secured a sheet of brown paper that lay on the mailing table in the postoffice pen. He went to the stove, pushed past a few jiggery legs and stood in the center of the group. Cap. Jote Bailey who used to coast from Penobscot to New York was telling a story in the wavering voice of the old.

"—easy," said he. He had a hand that looked like a bunch of bananas. "The anchor laid cocked on one fluke. Wal, he just scooched and hecked his shoulder under the anchor and—uh!—up he grunted with it. When he walked across the deck his feet sunk tw inches into the solid planks. He—"

The Postmaster settled his specs more firmly on the end of his nose and looked over the rim at the narrator.

"Look here, Jote," said he with decision, "I hain't got no objections to reasonable and proper stories bein' told here in this store. But I hain't goin' to run the chances of any Ananiasse droppin' dead on my premises. Not if the court knows herself and she thinks she do. I'm willin' to give ye quite a lot of rope. But when ye're tellin' sech gol-hecked lie that ye dasn't chaw terbacker for fear of swallerin' the quid, it's time to draw the line. And besides, I want to read ye suthin' I have writ in the poetry line. I—"

"Tain't fair not to let me finish my story," protested old Jote.

"It's contrary to the rules and regulations of the 'Nited States postoffice laws to have liein' on the postoffice premises," said The Postmaster.

"If the President hears I have let The Crowd set here and lie against the statoots made and pervidied, there hain't no known' what he won't do."

He spread the sheet of brown paper before his nose.

"This here poetry that I was tellin' ye about," he began, but a bustling about him brought his eyes up over the edge of the paper. Uncle Wack took his package of board nails, Jote tucked his codfish under his arm, Teed drove the small potato more firmly on the snout of his kerosene can and all started for the door.

"Poetry spiles drefful easy," said the last man

A new cure for

Rheumatism of which any suffering reader can have A 50 CENT BOX FREE!

On the theory "that seeing is believing," John A. Smith of Milwaukee wants everyone to try his remedy for the cure of rheumatism at his expense. For that reason he proposes to distribute 25,000 free 50c. boxes among all persons sending him their address. Mr. Smith had suffered all the agony and torture from rheumatism, tried all the remedies known and yet utterly failed to find relief.

At times he was so helpless that he had to take morphine and after considerable doctoring he gave up in despair. He began studying into the causes of rheumatism and after much experimenting, he finally hit upon a combination of drugs which completely cured him. The result was so beneficial to his entire system that he called his new found remedy "Gloria Tonic." Those of his friends, relatives and neighbors suffering from rheumatism were next cured and Mr. Smith concluded to offer his remedy to the world. But he found the task a difficult one as nearly everybody had tried a hundred or more remedies and they couldn't be made to believe that there was such a thing as a cure for rheumatism. But an old gentleman from Sequin, Texas, wrote him saying if Mr. Smith would send him a sample he would try it, but as he had suffered forty-one years and wasted a fortune with doctors and advertised remedies, he wouldn't buy anything more until he knew it was worth something.

The sample was sent, he purchased more and the result was astonishing. He was completely cured. This gave Mr. Smith a new idea and ever since that time he has been sending out free sample boxes to all who apply. In Prosser, Neb., it cured a lady of 67 who had suffered 52 years. In Fountain City, Wis., it cured Hon. Jacob Sexauer, a gentleman of 70, who suffered for 33 years. In Perryburg, Ohio, it cured a gentleman 70 years old. In Heron Lake, Minn., it cured Mrs. John Gehr, who had suffered for 30 years. Rev. C. Sund of Harrisville, Wis., tested this remarkable cure on two members of his congregation, one who had suffered 15 and the other 25 years, both were completely cured. In St. Louis, Mo., it cured Mr. F. Faerber of the Concordia Publ. House. In Vandalia, Ills., it cured Mrs. Mary E. Sayles 78 years of age, who was so crippled that she could not dress herself. In Bennington, Vt., it cured an old man whom the best physicians of Worms and Frankfurt, Germany, called incurable. This old gentleman had walked for 20 years on crutches, both legs having been lame. He can now walk like a young man. Even prominent physicians had to admit that "Gloria Tonic" is a positive success, among them Dr. Quintero of the University of Venezuela, to whom it was recommended by the United States Consul. In thousands of other instances the result has been the same. It cured many cases which defied Hospitals, Drugs, Electricity and Medical Skill, among them persons over 75 years old.

Mr. Smith will send a 50c. box also his illustrated book on rheumatism, absolutely free of charge to any reader of *Comfort* for he is anxious that everybody should profit by his good fortune. It is a remarkable remedy and there is no doubt but that it will cure any case of rheumatism, no matter how severe it may be. Mr. Smith's address in full is:

JOHN A. SMITH,

3160 Germania Bldg., Milwaukee, Wis.

CHILD LOST

for 15 years. Stolen from the cradle. She was told who and where parents lived correctly all Private Affairs, Health, Business. Send stamp for particulars. Box C, 245, Saratoga, N.Y.

out. "Better ice than piece ye've got there."

"That's what a 'Nited States official gits by tryin' to live amongst the common people," soliloquized The Postmaster, and he went into his pen and commenced to read the newspapers in the boxes of the patrons of the office.

HANDSOME WATCH FREE



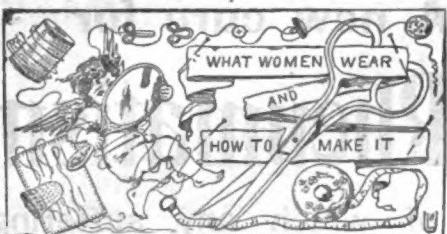
A Solid Gold Ladies' or Gents' watch costs from \$25 to \$50. Don't throw your money away.

If you want a **watch** that will equal for time any **Solid Gold Watch** made, send us your name & address at once & agree to sell **only 8** boxes of our famous Vegetable Pills at 25 cts. a box. It's the greatest remedy on earth for Constipation, Indigestion & all stomach disorders & they sell like hot cakes. Don't miss the chance of your life. Send us your order & we will send the 8 boxes by mail. When sold you send us the money & we will send you the **WATCH** with

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the same day money is received. There is no humbuggy about this. We are giving away these watches to quickly introduce our Remedy—and all we ask is that when you receive the watch you will show it to your friends. Hundreds have received watches from us & are more than delighted with them. This is a glorious opportunity to get a fine **watch** without paying a cent for it & you should write at once. Address

AMERICAN MEDICINE CO., Dept. 61A, 47 Warren St., New York City.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

THE English raglan has certainly superseded all other form of wrap for intermediate weather. The golf capes have bidden us good bye and our gratitude goes with them, for they were most useful in their day. Newmarkets reach to the bottom of the skirt, never longer. Sometimes they fall perfectly loose from the shoulder and sometimes are fitted in at the back and sides, following the lines of the figure gracefully without clearly defining it. Sometimes the fullness is brought in at the waist by means of a belt caught loosely about the figure and crossed in front, or fastened by means of a handsome buckle.

Too much cannot be said in favor of large collars and revers; they are in evidence on almost every garment. They broaden the shoulders, the flat sleeve top not serving to do this enough to preserve the correct proportions, now that sleeves are so much broader at the elbow.

Velvet ribbons hold their own; narrow velvet ribbon is used for running through laces that are now woven for the purpose, forming intricate patterns. Broad black velvet, two-toned, is used for belts and sashes. Black ribbons with white satin linings are favorites. Quantities of taffeta ribbon are used. Muffs and boas are made entirely of them, with the big flat rosette for garniture, with the "nail head" button in the center. Seemingly everything is trimmed with great flat rosettes of taffeta with the button center. Pink ribbons with large pink roses are used for belts and for the neck to match.

Handkerchiefs, to be refined, must be as sheer as a light cobweb. To carry when gowned in a pocketless toilet the very small "glove handkerchief" is alone possible. It is carried tucked into the palm of the glove and is both small and very fine. The French make most fascinating neckwear of fine hand-

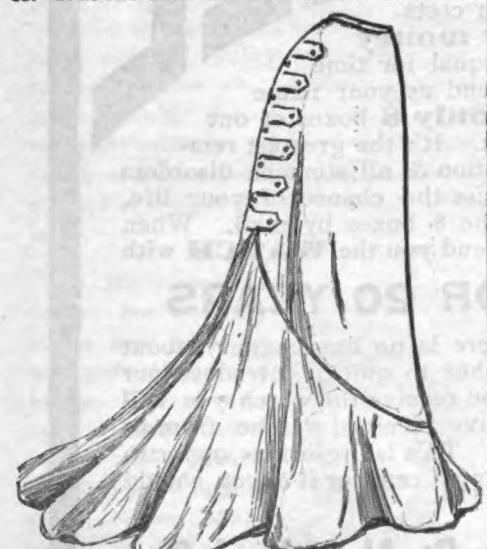


kerchiefs, an art that might be studied to advantage by American women. Above the hem some handkerchiefs have a row of narrow Valenciennes lace insertion and edge. The filmy hand-worked handkerchiefs of the French convent type of workmanship have only a monogram or initial in one corner and a triangular pattern in the opposite one.

Buttons are to be used more this season than for several years past. The most noticeable novelties show combinations of different materials. A coat button, large, in fanciful open-work design, has cut-steel bars for half the space, the other half in a different design, bearing of gilt studded with brilliants.

Enamored buttons are shown in great variety, in combination, also plain. Cut steel and red enamel are combined in handsome big coat button, made with a clustered center of tiny cut steel points surrounded by a rim of red enamel and again by an outer edge of steel points. Gilt and enamel are combined, and pale blue, pink and coral tints in enamel are shown in great variety. The use of handsome buttons and buttonholes bound with velvet is prevalent on imported gowns.

Standing collars fasten where the waist closes. If at the back the stock fastens there. If



the bodice fastens in front, as so many of the new bodices do, then the stock fastens there. If at the side the stock fastens at the side.

Among dress garniture, the revival of black

silk embroidery is very noticeable and is chiefly in rococo designs. Ovals, squares, medallions, etc., on mousseline or on fillet. Another quite new combination is made with Chantilly lace as a ground. Upon this is an applique of velvet, giving an unusual effect of lightness with an accentuated pattern. Velvet is a part of all elaborate trimming.

Some of the newest veils now being worn have a general appearance of being white as the mesh and three-quarters of the dots are white, black spots only showing at intervals. Dainty face coverings of white chiffon show borders of tiny scarlet chains in silk embroidery, very



brilliant and yet dainty, especially when draped about the brim of a smart hat. Black veils with large mesh are shown spotted with colors, the favorite being pale blue.

Comb sets for the hair, comprising a large back comb and side combs, are shown in tortoise shell, studded with big turquoise and rhinestones.

Sleeves of soft wool or silk gowns grow larger and fuller, while those strictly tailor made grow smaller and snugger.

The newest fancy in belts shows a handsome buckle at the back and a big bow with long ends of the same ribbon as the belt, to fasten the front.

The Saving of Lives.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

WHEN Grace Darling and Ida Lewis saved the lives of a ship's crew, they were considered as little less than the great wonders of the world. Today there are several schools for teaching the science of life-saving, and there are life-saving establishments on every coast.

The firemen belonging to engine and hose companies in our cities, too, are taught their business of life-saving as thoroughly as bookkeeping or setting broken limbs is taught.

In Syracuse, New York, for the purpose of practice, a five-story building was erected in the rear of an engine house, and a section of this structure is shown in the accompanying cut, which also shows a number of men clinging ant-like to its perpendicular surface. The apparatus used by the school is shown in the illustration. What are known as "pomper" ladders are seen in the foreground, arranged in the form of a triangle. They consist of 15-foot

ladders joined together.

Each ladder is 15 feet long, 5 wide and 15 inches high.

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The New York Fine Arts Federation is hoping to be able to erect a \$1,500,000 building in that city.

The new French submarine boat, Espadon, can remain for four hours at a depth of fifty feet without her crew becoming distressed for air.

Ten minutes of labor by one man is all that is now required to produce a bushel of wheat. In 1830 it required three hours and three minutes.

Last year Missouri produced more manufactured tobacco than any other State in the Union, over 78,000,000 pounds passing through its factories.

Five important pictures by Hans Makart have been bought by the Austrian Government for the museum at Vienna. One of the works is the famous "Five Senses."

Berlin pays a salary to a professional bird catcher, who keeps scientific and educational institutions supplied with birds, birds' nests and eggs, and he is the only man in the empire permitted to do so.

Plans for developing the study of Spanish at Yale have been made recently. A course in that language has been arranged to be given under the direction of William Henry Bishop, novelist and author. It will soon begin.

The United States Navy now consists of thirteen battleships, six armored cruisers, three semi-armored cruisers, six protected cruisers, four monitors, twenty-three torpedo-boat destroyers, and seven submarine boats—seventy-eight in all. These vessels are either built or in process of construction.

An ingenious apparatus for estimating dust in the air has just been devised. It is capable of indicating in milligrams the amount of dust per cubic metre found in the air in any particular place. In a school room it is said to be 10 per cent. In a woolen mill 20, and in a flour mill from 22 to 28 per cent.

On February 1, 1902, an international system of magnetic observations will be established. There will be several stations in the United States, from which periodical circulars will be issued, giving the variations of the needle at certain dates. The main purpose is to ascertain the law of magnetic variation and minimize errors in navigation and land surveying.

The skull of Mozart, the eminent composer, which, since the death of Professor Hyrtl, who kept it in his home, and was transferred to one place and another, has now found its final home in the museum at Salzburg. The place of Mozart's grave is forgotten, and even for the authenticity of this skull there is only the evidence of a grave digger, an engraver and the late Professor Hyrtl.

Early in the nineteenth century Jacob Perkins of Massachusetts struck the keynote of a series of great advances in bank note printing when he substituted steel for copper plates, and devised a method of making transfers of the original engraving to soft steel, which, by being afterwards hardened, could be printed from. Through his exertions not only in this country but on the continent of Europe bank notes many years ago attained great superiority in artistic and mechanical execution.

N. S. Amstutz, of Cleveland, the inventor of a process for sending pictures over wires to distant points, has recently brought out an improved process for the making of half-tone pictures for newspaper use. Its chief value is the rapidity with which a picture of this character can be made, although it has another merit, and that is that the whites are pure and solid and not broken up by dots, as is generally the case. This makes the picture crisp and sparkling because of the sharp contrasts secured in the print.

Herbert Hoyle, an Englishman, who is the inventor of a process for making artificial silk from China grass, has been brought to this country by some capitalists with the object of exploiting his invention, and a mill will soon be in operation at Fall River or Boston. One of the advantages of Mr. Hoyle's process is that the artificial silk can be spun on ordinary cotton and woolen machines. There are a few factories in Europe for the utilization of China grass, but this is the first venture of this kind in the United States.

Dr. Albert F. Woods, the physiologist of the United States Bureau of Plant Industry, has made a scientific study of the causes which produce the brilliant coloring in autumn leaves. The immediate cause, it seems, is the oxidation of the color compounds or color generators in the cells, which is produced by the attack of a chemical ferment. The most gorgeous autumn leaves are produced by fall whose days gradually cool from summer heat to winter snow. But if the frost should come early the true autumnal splendors need not be expected.

A patent has recently been filed in the Patent Office for a device which applies power to an automobile motor only when the driver's seat is occupied. The instant the operator rises from his seat or is thrown therefrom, the cushion is raised by means of a spring, and this carries with it a plunger which shuts off the power, and the vehicle comes to a standstill. This invention will prevent runaway accidents from automobiles. When the application for this patent was filed in the Patent Office it was found that there were twenty-six other applications covering like ideas.

An ambulance in a lamp-post is the latest idea in street contrivances. Paris has just been endowed with some specimens of what is called a "phase de secours" or first aid lighthouse. It consists of an ornated bronze pillar about fifteen feet high, with a round, overhanging top resembling that of a lighthouse, and containing a clock face barometer and three transparent pictorial advertisements, revolved by clockwork and lighted by gas from within. In the base of the pillar is a letter box, and in the shaft is a folding stretcher, with printed directions for affording first aid to the injured. In case of a street accident the stretcher can be immediately obtained by breaking a small glass window just above the letter box, taking out the key and unlocking the receptacle.

Lord Kelvin, says an English paper, once paid a visit to some well-known electrical works. At one of them they were escorted over the workshops by the senior foreman, a man of much intelligence and an enthusiastic electrician. Entirely unaware of his visitor's identity, he minutely explained the details of the plant and machinery, and lectured him in his role of layman quite professionally. Lord Kelvin's friend was on the point of interrupting several times, but an amused signal from the great master of electricity kept him silent. When the tour of inspection was complete, Lord Kelvin quietly turned to the foreman and asked: "What, then, is electricity?" This was a poser for the man, who, somewhat shamefaced, confessed that he could not say. "Well, well," said Lord Kelvin gently, "that is the only thing about electricity which you and I don't know."

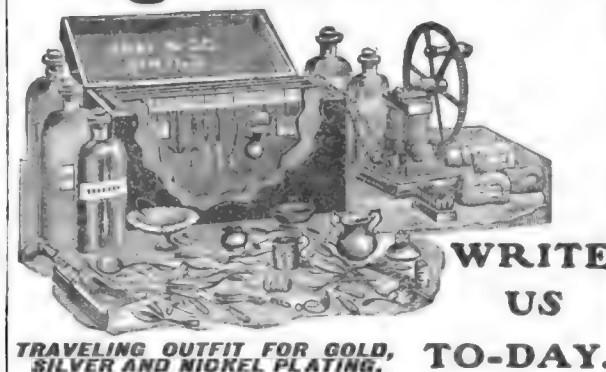
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WHAT IS THE USE OF YOUR SLAVING LONGER FOR SOME ONE ELSE

Why not start a business for yourself, reap all the profits and get a standing in your locality.

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In this era every bright man and woman is looking to own a business, to employ help, and to make money.

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If you are making less than \$30 weekly it will pay you to read this announcement, for it will not appear again in this paper.

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We start you in a profitable business. Teach you absolutely free how to conduct it.

Gentlemen and ladies make \$20 to \$35 weekly at home or traveling, taking orders, using, selling and appointing agents for PROFESSOR GRAY'S Latest Improved, Guaranteed Plating Machines and Outfits. NO FAKE OR TOYS, but genuine, practical, complete, scientific outfits for doing the finest of plating on WATCHES, JEWELRY, KNIVES, FORKS, SPOONS, CASTORS, TABLEWARE OF ALL KINDS, BICYCLES, SEWING MACHINES, SWORDS, REVOLVERS, HARNESS AND BUGGY TRIMMINGS, metal specialties; in fact all kinds of metal goods. HEAVY THICK PLATE. GUARANTEED TO WEAR FOR YEARS. No experience necessary.

There is really a wonderful demand for re-plating. You can do business at nearly every house, store, office or factory.

Almost every family has from \$2 to \$10 worth of tableware to be plated, besides watches, jewelry, bicycles, etc.

Every boarding house, hotel, restaurant, college or public institution has from \$5 to \$75 worth of work to be plated. Every jewelry, repair or bicycle shop, every dentist, doctor and surgeon, every man, woman and child you meet has either a watch, some jewelry, bicycles, instruments, or some articles needing plating.

Besides the above there are hundreds of patentees and manufacturers of metal goods, bicycles, sewing machines and typewriter repair shops who want their goods plated, or to whom you can sell a plating outfit, furnishing them supplies for doing their own plating.

Retail Stores which handle hardware, harness, tableware and plated or metal goods all need a plating and polishing outfit for refinishing goods that become worn, soiled, rusty or tarnished.

Every Undertaker requires a plating outfit for repairing and finishing coffin and hearse trimmings which are soiled, tarnished or worn.

Manufacturers are making and selling tons of new tableware, jewelry, bicycles and various kinds of metal goods every month which has only a very thin plate, which, in a few weeks, wears off, making the goods unsightly, unfit for future use unless plated.

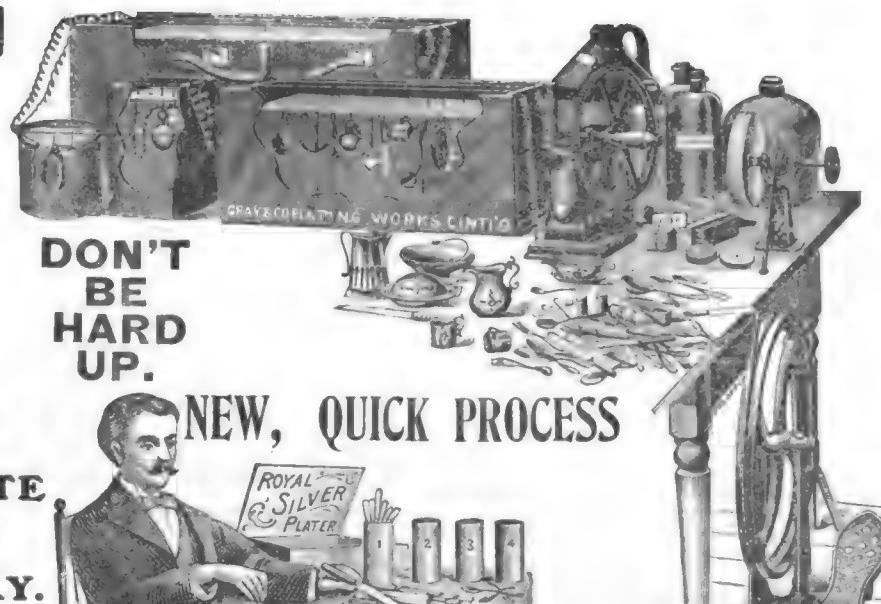
Manufacturers of new goods do no re-plating on old goods whatever, but try to force the public to throw away the old and buy new at high prices, but this only makes the plating business better.

The best part of the plating business is that it increases fast and is permanent.

Put out your sign, secure your outfit, do a little work and quickly you will be favored with orders.

If you do not wish to do the plating yourself you can hire boys for \$3 to \$4 a week to do the work the same as we do, and solicitors to gather up goods to be plated on commission.

It is not hard work, but is pleasant, and especially so when your business is netting you \$20 to \$35 a week for 5 or 6 hours' work a day.



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BE
HARD
UP.



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We Manufacture Complete Outfits, All sizes.

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The profits realized from plating are tremendous.

To plate a set of teaspoons requires only about 3c. worth of metal and chemicals; a set of knives, forks or tablespoons about 5c. worth. The balance of the price received for the work is for the agent's time and profit.

Agents usually charge from 25c. to 50c. per set for plating teaspoons, from 50c. to 75c. for tablespoons and forks, and from 60c. to \$1.00 for knives.

We allow you to set your own price for plating. Get as much as you can. You will have no competition. You know what it costs to plate the goods, and all you get over cost is profit. Some agents charge much more than the above prices, while others do the work for half and still make money.

Let us start you in business for yourself at once, don't delay a single day. Be your own boss. Be a money maker. We do all kinds of plating ourselves, have had years of experience, and are headquarters for plating supplies. We manufacture our own dynamos and outfitts, all sizes, and send them out complete, with all tools, lathes, wheels and materials; everything ready for use.

We teach you everything, furnish all receipts, formulas and trade secrets free, so that failure should be impossible, and any one who follows our directions and teachings can do fine plating with a little practice, and become a money maker.

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Prof. Gray's Famous Discovery.

Factory and Warehouse of Gray & Co., Cincinnati, Ohio. Capital \$100,000. Employ 200 to 300 people daily.

When you deliver the goods plated to customers they will be well pleased, in fact, delighted with the work, will pay for it promptly, and you will be given on an average twice as much work to be plated as they gave you the first time you called.

YOU CAN DO PLATING SO CHEAP

that every person can afford to have their goods plated.

No tidy housekeeper will allow worn and rusty tableware to go before a guest when it can be restored and made equal to new.

No person will wear jewelry or a watch, or ride a bicycle, or use a typewriter, sewing machine, or any machine made of metal from which the plate is worn off when they see samples of your work and hear your prices. People in this day and generation are too sensible and economical to throw away their old goods and buy new when they can have their old goods replated for so small a cost, making them, in many cases, better than when new.

The best part of the plating business is that it increases fast and is permanent.

Put out your sign, secure your outfit, do a little work and quickly you will be favored with orders. If you do not wish to do the plating yourself you can hire boys for \$3 to \$4 a week to do the work the same as we do, and solicitors to gather up goods to be plated on commission.

It is not hard work, but is pleasant, and especially so when your business is netting you \$20 to \$35 a week for 5 or 6 hours' work a day.

FREE—WRITE US TO-DAY for our new plan and proposition; also valuable information how the plating is done. Sit down and write now, so we can start you without delay. If you wish to see a sample of plating by our Outfits, send 2c. postage. Send your address anyway.

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The above firm is thoroughly reliable and do just as they agree. The outfits are just as represented, and do fine plating, and after investigation we consider this one of the best paying businesses we have yet heard of.—Editor HOME.

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"Wishing you a Happy New Year!" Just stop a minute and forget the familiar, stereotyped form of the words. Play that you hear them for the first time and that they mean what they say.

Nothing more strongly illustrates the different points of view of this century and the last than the Queen's Christmas gift to her South African soldiers. Victoria the queen of the early part of the nineteenth century sent a cake of chocolate. Queen Alexandra sends pipes of briarwood with the royal coat of arms in silver on the bowls. Tommy Atkins may not know that "while a woman is only a woman, a good cigar is a smoke," but he will believe that when the woman is a queen, a good pipe is a royal gift.

The French Academy awards an annual prize of one thousand francs called the Prize for Virtue. This has recently been given to a poor seamstress, who from the age of thirteen has supported a paralytic father, a sick mother and ten brothers and sisters. One can hardly imagine the surprise this must have been to one who patiently bore what seemed to others a burden with no thought but to perform her duty well. Virtue may be its own reward but the world is slow to accept that theory while an act like this of the Academy awakens immediate interest and attention.

We are sometimes alarmed with pessimistic calculations as to how long the earth will furnish sustenance for its rapidly increasing population. These alarming statisticians go on to prove that with the decreased death rate resulting from modern sanitary measures and the absence of great wars resulting from advanced ideas of civilization, Nature is deprived of her natural remedies for a surplus population. In the face of this the recent action of the French Senate seems surprising. An extra parliamentary commission has been appointed to seek means of increasing the birth rate and diminishing the mortality in France. It is said that at the beginning of the century France had 26,000,000 inhabitants, England 12,000,000 and Germany 15,000,000. New England has 41,000,000. Germany 56,000,000 and France but 38,000,000. This seems to indicate national decay. Zola has written one of his strongest novels on this topic and with the idea of furthering the same result that the French senate desire—an increased population in France.

The county clerk who awoke to find himself famous because he offered a gift of a cook stove to the first couple he married, must have learned a lesson from books and observation. He evidently had his own theories as to the best way to make home happy. He would probably answer the query, "Is marriage a failure?" by referring to the cook stove. He may have read the answers to the question, "How shall I keep my husband?" "Feed the brute," or the other well worn epigram, "The way to a man's heart is through his stomach." His gift awoke the press paragraphs to their best stunts in the way of jeering comment.

This seems strange in view of the fact that the scientists of the day are more and more given to exploiting the theory that what a man is, is determined by what he eats. Surely the cook stove has a close and intimate relation to what one eats. The wife who wishes to mould her husband's future has but to feed him properly to make the man what she will. What better aid could be asked than that of a good cook stove? There was literature, science and common sense to back up that magistrate's belief that a cook stove was a fit and proper wedding gift.

The American Historical Association held its annual meeting in Washington during the last days of December. The association is composed of some of the most scholarly men and women in the United States. It has already accomplished much in the way of scholarly research in the field of American history although its work is not confined to American history alone. It is almost within the last decade that

American history has been given a prominent place in the curriculum of colleges and secondary schools. The association has been a helpful factor in giving dignity to the study of our own history and institutions. A wealth of historical material has been made valuable through use. There has never been a time when historical and genealogical research was so general as at the present. The American Historical Association has committees whose work covers every field of history work. The reports of the association are the most valuable compendiums of recent work in the field of history. The public is gradually developing an interest in the work planned and carried on by the association and this is a most helpful road to an intelligent patriotism.

The subject of child labor in the South is arousing general attention through an appeal that some of the leading citizens of Alabama have made to the press and people of New England. Many of the mills employing child labor are owned and controlled by Northern capitalists and it is claimed that their influence led to the repeal of legislation restricting child labor. The rapid development of the cotton industry and other manufacturing interests of the South has produced the same industrial conditions that have menaced every manufacturing nation. Restrictive laws have gradually followed sudden industrial development and in every case these laws have had the support of the most advanced thinkers of the nations. If South Carolina could place beside her magnificent cotton exhibit in the Charleston exposition a moving picture of her army of twelve thousand weary little toilers under fourteen years of age, the demand for legislation would be overwhelming from North and South alike. Figures, facts and humanity must and will remedy these conditions which are as great a blot on our civilization as slavery ever was.

January, the first and the beginning of a new year, marks an exhibition of small books by the bookstores and stationers. These tiny blank books that will slip in the vest pocket are dignified by the name of "diary." The modern diary has about space enough to record important engagements and is really little more than a calendar of the "strenuous life." How different from the ponderous diaries of earlier times. Few people of today keep diaries. We live in the "Now" and the patient diarist must always look back a little even though it is but the space of a day. Future centuries will look in vain for such vivid photographs of daily life as we can find in the incomparable diaries of Pepys and Evelyn. They furnish history of the most graphic power. The Polish novelist, Sienkiewicz, gives a clear explanation of the value of a diary when he says, "A man who leaves memoirs whether well or badly written, providing they be sincere, renders a service to future psychologists and writers, giving them not only a faithful picture of the times but likewise human documents that can be relied upon."

Author of "Up in Maine."



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COMFORT is pleased to announce that, beginning with this issue, Major Holman F. Day will be a regular contributor to these columns. Each month he will furnish a poem and a story, typifying the quaint and curious characters to be found in Maine. Our readers may thus be able to judge for themselves of the merit of the sort of work which in so short a time has placed him in the foreground of American writers.

Major Day lives in a charming home in Auburn, Maine, and his literary workshop is a hive of industry day in and day out. He writes rapidly and his vocabulary of expressive and peculiar words is large and wonderful.

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The Schley Verdict.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ADMIRAL SCHLEY.

THE verdict of the Schley Board of Inquiry has been rendered. This board as finally constituted consisted of Admiral Dewey and Rear Admirals Benham and Ramsay. COMFORT has published the charges contained in the precept ordering the inquiry and it is not necessary to enumerate them here. There were ten charges in all.

The opinion of the board was not unanimous upon all the counts in the precept. Rear Admirals Benham and Ramsay agreed that nine of the ten charges were true, while Admiral Dewey was diametrically opposed to them.

The majority report censures Admiral Schley, while Admiral Dewey sustains him in most particulars. The majority report finds, in brief, that Admiral Schley should have proceeded with the utmost dispatch to Cienfuegos and maintained a close blockade; that he should have endeavored to obtain information of the Spanish squadron there; that he should have proceeded to Santiago with dispatch; that he should not have made the retrograde movement; that he should have obeyed the department's orders; that he should have endeavored to capture the Spanish vessels in Santiago; that he did not do his utmost to destroy the Colon; that he caused the squadron to lose distance in the loop of the Brooklyn; that he thereby caused the Texas to back; that he did injustice to Hodgson; that his conduct in the campaign was characterized by vacillation, dilatoriness and lack of enterprise; that his official reports on the coal supply were misleading and inaccurate; that his conduct in the battle was self-possessed, and that he encouraged in his own person his subordinate officers and men.

Admiral Dewey says that the passage to Cienfuegos was effective; that he allowed the Aduls to enter Cienfuegos to get information; that his passage to Santiago was with as much dispatch as possible, keeping the squadron together; that the blockade of Santiago was effective; and, finally, that he was the senior officer off Santiago, in absolute command, and entitled to the credit for the glorious victory which resulted in the destruction of the Spanish ships.

The members unite in recommending that on account of the time which has elapsed since the Santiago campaign, no further proceedings be taken.

Admiral Schley's counsel asked the privilege of filing exceptions to the verdict, but Secretary Long finally disposed of the case, so far as the navy department is concerned, by acting upon the findings and conclusions of the court of inquiry. He approves the findings of fact and the opinion of the full court; he approves the majority opinion where there is a difference in the court; he holds that the court could not have entered into a consideration of the question of command at the battle of Santiago; and, finally, he accepts the recommendation that no further proceedings shall be held.

Secretary Long has declined the application of Admiral Sampson's counsel to enter upon an inquiry into the question of command and has also notified Admiral Schley's counsel of that fact as a reason for declining to hear them on that point. So far as the navy department is concerned the case is closed.

As sequels to the findings of the court of inquiry are the reprimand of General Nelson A. Miles of the army and the dismissal of Historian E. S. Maclay from his position in the Brooklyn navy yard.

General Miles gave out an interview to a Cincinnati paper in which he said he was willing to take the judgment of Admiral Dewey in the matter.

"I think Dewey has summed up the matter in a clear and concise manner," said General Miles, "and I believe

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BARZILLA'S NEW YEAR'S REFORM.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HOLMAN F. DAY.

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Barzilia B. Brown had got out of our town in a rather sensational way: A special committee called round to his house and hinted he'd better not stay. Barzilia was having a souvenir craze—he used to collect after dark. Our cellars and hen-roosts and gardens and bins he made his particular mark. We had liked him, you know, and we humored his whims for a pretty consid'able while, Till he kind o' got out of the amateur class and went it professional style. So long as he'd gathered the stuff for himself we didn't get 'spec'ally mad, But sellin' out hens in the markets in town was scrubbin' us rather too hard. So the neighbors called 'round and they made him a suit from the feathers they found in his yard, And they gave him a ride he would have en'joyed if the rail hadn't jounced quite so hard. So Barzilia B. Brown Went out of our town, Entertainin' a feelin' like runnin' us down; But he skipped all a-when! When the crowd had got through Had feathers enough, so he probably flew. Then several years passed smoothly on And we never knew where Brown had gone.

At the store now and then some chawin' old men would projick on Barzilia's fate. It seemed the idea he would likely get rich if he didn't get hung for his trait. There were rumors 'round town that he'd shifted his name and had stolen a railroad or so. We didn't dispute it, we folks that knew Brown: He'd do it, just give him the show. So the years skitted on till a New Year's was near, then we had a sensation in town: For a letter arrived for our first selectman and 'twas signed by Barzilia B. Brown. Said he, "I've forgiven the caper you played and the way you compelled me to leave, And I'll square up accounts if you'll gather the folks at the meeting house next New Year's Eve." So the people came early and crowded the pews and after a com'f'able wait Barzilia marched in lookin' slick as a pin and stepped to the pulpit desk, straight. Said he, "My dear friends, As a decent man ought to when kind fortune sends Good luck in his way. So I've come here to pay, For I'm bound to stand square with you all New Year's Day. And I'm glad to see you here tonight For I want your help in starting right."

Then he took out a check-book and there at the desk of the minister sat himself down. And we all filed around and we passed our receipts for the checks of Barzilia B. Brown; Then down to the vestry the meetin' adjourned where the women had got up a spread, We ate and made speeches till near New Year's dawn, and then we went happy to bed. But before we adjourned the discussion had turned to a statue for Barzilia B. For the meanest agreed 'twasn't often we found a critter so honest as he. We were out with the band when he left the next day and his send-off was planned on a scale That we hoped would square up for that earlier "bee" when he rode out of town on a rail. We turned in our checks to our first selectman but he came back from town drefful blank; He said that they never heard tell of old Brown and he hadn't a cent in the bank. Then we figgered the thing as a mighty mean joke that was played by Barzilia B. Brown Because of his dressin' of feathers and tar and his ride on a rail out of town. But a little while later we found it no joke. There were pushed up against us one day A lot of Holmes' notes other parties had bought—and you know what the law is—you pay! And 'twad better to settle than fight the thing out; we had to own up we were best. A church full of idiots signin' Holmes' notes with the notion we signed a receipt. When we figured it out We found that old Brown Hooked two thousand dollars right out of our town. As you've probably heard, It is often averred That a lot of fine feathers don't make a fine bird. And the suit that we gave to Barzilia B. Didn't help him a tunket so far as we see.

his conclusions will be endorsed by the patriotic people of the United States. I have no sympathy with the efforts that have been made to destroy the honor of an officer under such circumstances."

Secretary of War Root took cognizance of the above expression of opinion on the part of General Miles, under instruction from the President, and asked him to explain his reasons for doing so. In his answer General Miles stated that he believed he had the same right as any other citizen to express an opinion upon a matter of such public interest. Secretary Root replied that the General's conduct was in violation of the regulations and the rules of official propriety and that he was justly liable to censure.

On December 20th Secretary Long notified Rear Admiral A. S. Barker, commandant of the navy yard in Brooklyn, that he was directed by the President to ask that Edgar S. Maclay, special laborer, store-keeper's office, send in his resignation. At first Mr. Maclay stated that he should decline to do so, inasmuch as he was a civil service employee and could not be removed except for cause. Subsequently, however, Mr. Maclay was removed.

Secretary Long notified Admiral Dewey that the Schley Court of Inquiry is dismissed and the Admiral has so announced.

Officially, the whole case is ended. Nevertheless the case may be under discussion for some time to come.

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The Universal Tucker a wonderful new device entirely different from all others. Fits any sewing machine. Makes any desired width of fabric, and in addition requires scarcely any guidance of the fabric. Tucks all kinds of goods from heaviest flannels to thinnest chiffons, without marking, creasing or previous basting. Warranted for fifty years. Ladies and experts astonished and delighted and never fail to purchase. To show it to sell it.

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NO MORE

CUBAN CAKE WALK.

CHARACTERISTIQUE CUBAN DANCE.

BY JAMES T. BRYNN.

INTRODUCTION.
Moderato.

DANCE.

The musical score for "Cuban Cake Walk" by James T. Brynn is a complex arrangement for two pianos or four hands. It begins with an "INTRODUCTION. *Moderato.*" section featuring a dense, rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. This leads into the main "DANCE." section, which is characterized by its energetic and varied rhythms. The piano parts frequently switch between different keys and dynamics, including forte (ff), piano (p), mezzo-forte (mf), and crescendo (cres.). The "DANCE." section concludes with a powerful final chord. Following this is a "TRIO." section, which provides a more harmonic and sustained contrast. The entire piece is composed in common time, with the piano parts often featuring different key signatures to reflect the changing mood and tempo.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

SOME inquiries having come, at various times, for instructions regarding the Cotillon, and suggestions for new figures, we will describe and illustrate a few of the latest figures in New York society, which is ever on the outlook for new and novel ideas for this most popular form of dancing. Twenty years ago we used to call it the German. It is exactly the same thing under a new name.

Although it is the fashion to give very expensive and beautiful favors, one need not always be extravagant, for the most beautiful and desirable favors may be made at home at a comparatively small expense. For example, large straw shade hats trimmed with garlands of flowers or large ribbon bows are one of the prettiest kind of favors.

Then there are sashes of chiffon, ruffled with the same; satin sewing or theatre bags of pale colors; big paper butterflies with gilded wings; ribbons covered with bells to be hung about one's shoulders or waist; or aigrettes made of roses or tulle for the hair.

All these things are beautiful and pleasing, and yet of trifling cost in comparison with the gold and silver trinkets that cost many dollars each which are given so lavishly by the millionaire entertainers of New York.

One of the new figures is called the snowball. For this, large white paper balls are prepared, filled with tiny atoms of white paper, like confetti. These are thrown by the ladies and caught by the most fortunate of the men, who dance with the fair throwers. There is genuine pelting in this figure, and showers of the fine white paper confetti cover everything and everybody.

The balloon figure consists of distributing colored balloons among the ladies, which their would-be partners have either to capture or destroy before claiming the honor of dancing with the owner of the balloon.

In another figure each lady dancing is provided with a broom, a lantern and an umbrella. Four men are led up to each lady so equipped. One of these she selects as her partner, giving the umbrella to another, who is expected to hold it over her and her partner while the next receives the lantern, with which he is expected to waltz ahead and light the couples on their way, the last man getting the broom, his duty being to sweep a way for the couple and their lantern bearer.

Then there is the screen figure in its variations. The one for this winter is that of the women standing behind the various folds and showing their fans above the screen, the men choosing from the fans. So that it behoves the men to observe what manner of fan his favorite carries.

Then there is the Christmas-tree handkerchief figure: a small blue spruce in a jardiniere is brought in hung with the handkerchiefs of the women who are to dance in the set, the men then choose the handkerchiefs according to their wisdom and desire and then identify the partners, or rather the partners identify the handkerchiefs.

The butterfly figure is very pretty. The women waltz round, holding Japanese butterflies of brilliant paper by strings. These float gracefully in the air and the men, armed with nets, give chase and strive to capture the butterflies, the girl being the reward for his efforts.

As flower figures are always in such favor for cotillions, it seems delightful to know of one that has a little variety to it. This particular flower figure is called "The war of the roses." Equal quantities of red and white roses are



LANTERN, BROOM AND UMBRELLA.

placed upon a table at one end of the ballroom. Eight couples dance. At a signal from the leader all go to the table, each woman taking a red rose and each man a white one.

The women dancers gather in the center of the room, join their right hands and hold them

high together, forming thus a bouquet of red roses. The men march in a circle twice around the ladies to the outside. Then the men join hands forming a bouquet of white roses, the ladies march twice around in a circle outside the group, meet their partners, bow and dance. The whole thing is extremely pretty and graceful.

As we have a continuous stream of inquiries regarding diet, exercise and developers, we conclude the majority of our readers are more interested in their health and personal appearance than in fancy work, which is commendable, for what is more attractive than a healthy, blooming woman, who looks as though she enjoyed life to the utmost? surely, a room or house full of beautiful embroideries would not be so attractive, particularly if the worker herself were pale and sickly, showing



ROSE FIGURE.

that she had sacrificed her health and youthful bloom to her love for making beautiful things. Keep your health. If you have time and desire for making beautiful things, make them secondary to health, every time. We give a few general rules, and later will devote all our space to suggestions, as desired by our correspondents.

Absolute freedom from care and anxiety. At least ten hours' sleep out of every twenty-four.

In addition to this, naps during the day if possible. This sleep must always be natural.



BUTTERFLY FIGURE.

The diet should be liberal and should consist largely of food containing starch and sugar, oysters, ice creams, desserts without pastry; plenty of outdoor life and a moderate amount of exercise.

Sleep in a well-ventilated room.

Where the patient is plump in one part of the body and fails in another a gymnastic course is advised. The patient is advised to go to a first-class gymnasium and take the exercise prescribed by the attendant physician. Where the development is meagre in the upper part of the body swimming is an excellent exercise.

HAVE YOU CATARRH?

There is one remedy you can try without danger of humbug. Send to H. G. Colman, Chemist, 440 So-West St., Kalamazoo, Mich., for a trial package of his catarrh cure. His only mode of advertising is by giving it away.

STEADY HOME WORK for ladies. No canvassing; no deposit required; no worthless outfit to buy. Send stamped envelope to Dickey Mfg. Co., Dickey Building, Chicago, Ill.

420 Quilt SOFA AND PIN CUSHION DESIGNS many new, quaint, queer and curious; includes lesson on Battenburg lace making and colored embroidery, with all stitches illustrated; also 100 crazy stitches, regular price 25c; to introduce will mail all the above for 10c. LADIES' ART CO., Box 5 A, St. Louis, Mo.

HEALTH FOR MOTHER AND CHILD. No woman need longer dread the ill's incident to motherhood; nor remain childless. Dr. J. H. Dye, 37 Lewis Block, Buffalo, N. Y., has devoted his life to curing the diseases of women. Write to him and he will inform you how to make childbirth safe, short and easy; the mother and child strong and healthy; also how to cure sterility.

Heads of Presidents on Postage Stamps.

If President McKinley's portrait is put on one of the postage stamps of this country, as despatches from Washington have said is likely to be done in case the Postoffice department brings out a new issue, his portrait will be the ninth of a President to be used in that way.

As the regular series of stamps, excluding the Columbian, Trans-Mississippi and Pan-American Exposition issues, has now been in circulation with only slight changes in watermarks and the like since 1890, a change of some sort is expected soon by philatelists.

Ever since Uncle Sam's postoffice began making stamps in 1847 or thereabouts, the face of Washington has appeared on one of the stamps in every regular issue and with a single exception on a stamp of low value and general use. Benjamin Franklin's face has always adorned postage stamps of low value and has thus become familiar to people who send or receive letters ever since 1847.

Presidents other than Washington whose faces have appeared on the stamps are Jefferson, Jackson, Lincoln, Garfield, Grant, Madison and Taylor.

Of the stamps of higher values the 8 cent stamp now bears Sherman's picture, the 10 cent Webster's, the 15 cent Clay's, the 30 cent Jefferson's, the 50 cent Jefferson's, the dollar stamp Perry's, the \$2 Madison's and the \$5 Marshall's.

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Sell Your Real Estate. We want good City and Farm property in all parts of the U. S. and Canada. Send description and cash price. WINSLOW REALTY AND INVESTMENT CO., Sta. E., South Bend, Ind.

FANCY EMBROIDERY NEEDLE Best needle made, because it is simple to operate. Should be in every home; works cotton silk or sepiy into beautiful designs; 20¢ prepaid, with directions showing colors used in 28 designs. National Needle Works, 5512 S. 6th St., St. Louis, Mo.

4 for 10 cents

We will send to any one, 4 handsome Duchesse Lace Handkerchiefs, patterned, all different. Also our new 16 page catalogue of Fancy Work Handkerchiefs. All for 10 cents. C. S. DAVIDSON & CO., 201 Broadway, New York. Dept. 22.

TWO RINGS FREE Send name and address, no money, and we will mail you 3 boxes of Comfort Cough Tablets. Will cure a cough in 1 day. Sell them for 10¢ a box. Send us the \$1.20 and we will mail you these two solid gold laid rings. Will wear a lifetime. No money required till tablets are sold. We take back all rings.

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WARMED TO 100° FAHRS. 14K. Gold plate hunting case, elegantly engraved. Fit for a king. No better watch made. Must be seen to be appreciated. Special Offer for next 60 days, send your full name and address and we will send this watch C.O.D. with privilege to examine. If found satisfactory pay agent \$6.25 and express charges. A guarantee and beautiful chain and chain sent free with every watch. Write at once as this may not apply again.

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\$6.35 buy this large, beautiful, new style claw foot carved

6 OAK FRAME OVERSTUFFED COUCH. 6 rows deep button tufting, best springs, fine velours cloth covering. Other handsome couches \$3.95 and up. We undersell everyone on all kinds of furniture. WRITE FOR FREE FURNITURE CATALOGUE. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., Chicago, Ill.

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Female Weakness, Inflammations, Internal Pains, Lassitude, Backache, Headache, Nervousness, Indigestion, Melancholy, Lung Diseases.

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Rushville, N. Y., June 2, 1901.
I had been ailing for fifteen years from backache, headache, consumption, piles, etc., and had been treated by some of the best specialists in the country without avail. Your brace cured me. The organs have gone back to proper position and remain there. Mrs. G. C. Shuman.

Free trial for 30 days. Particulars and illustrated book, mailed free in plain, sealed envelope. Write today to

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YOU SHOULD HAVE IT in your home. It contains thousands and thousands of pieces of bargains, wonderful and startling, because of their genuineness, represent a stock of goods of great value, over two million dollars and quotes lowest wholesale prices on everything that you eat, wear or use tell exactly what your storekeeper pays for his goods before adding his profit, and enables you to buy your goods in any quantity, no matter how small, at the same price he pays for his. It is 8x11 inches in size, 2 inches thick, and contains 1200 pages devoted to illustrations and descriptions of over 80,000 articles, including Clothing, Cloaks, Furniture Goods, Boots and Shoes, Dry Goods, Notions, Groceries, Drugs, Crockery, Hardware, Jewelry, Stoves, Saddles, Harness, Buggies, Cutters, Sporting Goods, Household Goods, Musical Instruments, Guns, Revolvers, Sporting Goods, Bicycles, Photographic Goods, Books, Furniture, Household Goods, Paints, Agricultural Implements, Fishing Tackle and everything else needed from day to day.

It explains our methods, instructs you how to order, and gives freight, mail, and express rates to all points. The catalog is a great Dictionary of Economy and merchandise guide, a veritable mine of merchandise information, and costs \$1.00 to print and place in the hands of our customers, the transportation charges alone being about 20 cents. Just mention this paper, send 15 cents in coin or postage to pay one-half the 80 cents postage, and we will send the catalog to you with all charges prepaid. The 15 cents pays only about half the postage. If you do not care to buy a wonderful money-saver, the most complete book of merchandise references you ever saw, and if you do not think it is worth many times the 15 cents, and the trouble of writing for it, let us know and we will instantly refund your 15 cents. JOHN M. SMYTH CO., 150-166 and 287-299 W. MADISON ST., CHICAGO, ILL.

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What Some Comfort Subscribers Say About Our Premium Club Remnants. Please find \$1.00 for which please send the "COMFORT" for one year to the club of four. I am so well pleased with the other Remants you sent me, I send you four new subscribers to get more remnants. We have some more friends that will subscribe for the "COMFORT" the next time I write you.

Please send me three more packages of Silks. I have just received my others and am very much pleased with them. MRS. MARY BLASWICH, TULARE CITY, CAL., November 14, 1901.

Enclosed find subscription money; please send me the silk remnants for crazy work for premium. Last year I sent to you and MARY CLAY, LEWISTON, MONT., November 18, 1901.

Enclosed find subscription money; please send me the silk remnants for crazy work for premium. Last year I sent to you and MARY FRITZPATRICK, OZONA, TEXAS, November 18, 1901.

A Big Lot of Real Silk and Plush Also Stamped Satin REMNANTS FOR CRAZY PATCHWORK.

ART in needle work is on the advance. We know the ladies delight in needle work, and offer a bargain that all ladies will now delight in. Bright, hand-colored, odd-shaped remnants accumulate very fast and all HECKIE FACTORIES: the styles were never so bright, pretty as they have been the past season and they are now hand-colored with remnants of many RICH GOODS. We have thousands of pieces of silk and satin on hand. People at a distance have hard times getting the right assortment to put into sofa-pillows, quilts, etc., and we can help you out now. We want new readers to "COMFORT" and are going to dispose of this immense lot **RIGHT OFF** to induce you to help us. Send us a package containing from 10 to 15 pieces of the best quality assortments and we will get it introduced to every home; then you can order what you like for your friends, and MAKE MONEY doing our work and helping yourself also. Remember these pieces are carefully tried and especially adapted to all sorts of fancy, art, and needle work. Many ladies sell taffeta, fancy pillows, etc., at a great price made from these remnants. **Grand Offer:** If you are at once, we will give you several rich, bright and beautiful remnants **at prices less than those being charged by hand** with a graceful design for embroidery or crazy work.

Five Skeins Embroidery Silks Free. In order to work your stamped satin and other pieces we also send absolutely **FREE**, five skeins of elegant embroidery silk, all different bright colors. This silk is worth a good price by itself, but we know if you ORDER ONE lot we will sell many in your locality, so make this offer besides giving you a large and elegant piece of Plush.

BEST WAY. We send ONE of the above complete assortments, lots **FREE**, as a reward to all who secure trial subscriptions to our monthly magazine "COMFORT," the best all round. Monthly money is sent to us and we will get you to advertise "COMFORT" to your friends and neighbors, we will send free with each package our new book, **With Eight Full-Page Illustrations**, for ornamenting the rooms.

of Crazy Patchwork, or for other ornamental work where patchwork may be put together to get the best effect, how to cover up seams with fancy stitches, etc., how to join edges, etc. It also illustrates over one hundred and fifty of these besides directions for taking A.R.T. EMBROIDERY, comprising the Outline and Kensington Stitch, Arrasene and Chenille Embroidery, Ribbon Work, Plush or Tufted Stitch, etc. It also tells how to do Kensington Painting.

CLUB OFFER. Send me the name of only one new trial year subscriber to "COMFORT" at 25¢, and we will send you a complete package as above free for your effort. Send to us two yearly subscribers and be additional, 50¢ in all, and we will send you three packages free postage.

CLUB OFFER. Send \$1.00 for a club of four yearly subscribers and we will send five complete packages postage free.

Remember, each package contains one big lot (over 100 pieces) silk remnants, assorted stamped satin pieces, 5 skeins embroidery silk, large piece of elegant plush, and green embroidery.

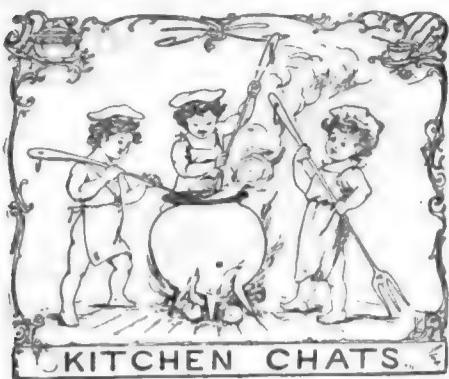
Send me three lots of Premium Remnants. Was well pleased with other packages. LOVELLA YEAGER, KEYSTONE, WIS., November 15, 1901.

Please send me the lot of silk and plush, also stamped satin used for crazy patchwork. Enclosed you will find 25¢ to pay for a subscription to "COMFORT". I have ordered one of the Remant Lots before and like them very much. Yours truly,

MRS. J. H. LEE, R. F. D., ABERDEEN, S. D., November 15, 1901.

SPECIAL. If you want to first take "COMFORT" on trial, send me. A sample "COMFORT" and a regular full and complete assortment of Remnants, Plush, Stamped Satin, 5 skeins Silk, Book, etc., will be sent postpaid.

Address. COMFORT, Silk Room 6, Augusta, Maine.



KITCHEN CHATS.

CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.

A quantity of requests have come to us from constant readers, asking for various kinds of recipes. As far as possible we will follow the desires of our readers, though in some cases the recipes cannot be found, being confined, probably, to certain sections of the country where certain things are used, and which are not obtainable generally, the country over. One reader wants to know how best to prepare and serve wild duck.

Dress, clean and truss the duck. Place on a rack in dripping pan, sprinkle with salt and pepper and cover breast with thin slices of fat salt pork. Cook twenty minutes, basting twice during baking. Place in body of duck one-fourth cup of cranberries, which should be removed before serving. Serve with cherry sauce, which is made by soaking one-half cup maraschino cherries in one pint claret three hours. Drain and thicken wine with one tablespoon arrowroot diluted with enough cold water to pour easily. Add the cherries and serve hot.

Another request is for fancy sweet cakes in odd designs, to serve at a luncheon. We have several new and good recipes for sweets, one of which is

CHOCOLATE DOMINOES.

Mix one-half cup pecan or walnut meats finely chopped, one-half cup finely chopped figs, one-fourth cup almond paste, grated rind of one-half orange and orange juice to moisten. Dredge board with confectioners' sugar, and knead mixture until well blended; add more sugar as needed. Add one square melted chocolate. Roll to one-fourth inch thickness, cut in shape of dominoes, cover with melted chocolate and decorate with pieces of almonds.

QUEEN'S FANCIES.

Mix one-fourth pound almond paste, two and one-half ounces confectioners' sugar and whites of one and one-half eggs. When well blended add one ounce melted chocolate. Let stand a few minutes, shape in rings, cover with finely-chopped pistachio nut meat and bake in a very slow oven.

CHOCOLATE MACAROONS.

Work together one-pound almond paste and three-eighths pound powdered sugar. Add gradually the whites of three eggs, and work until mixture is perfectly smooth, then add one and one-half squares Baker's chocolate which has been previously melted, and one-half teaspoon vanilla. Shape on a tin sheet covered with unbuttered paper and bake fifteen to twenty minutes in a slow oven. If desired, sprinkle with shredded almonds before baking.

BON-BONS.

Make centres of fondant flavored to taste and mixed with nut meats, figs, dates, candied cherries or pineapple and coconut. Let stand to dry; then dip in melted fondant flavored to taste and colored if desired.

FONDANT.

Heat slowly to the boiling point two and one-half pounds sugar, one and one-half cups hot water and one-fourth teaspoon cream of tartar. Boil without stirring until, when tried in cold water, a soft ball may be formed. As sugar adheres to sides of kettle wash it off with the hand, first dipped in cold water. Turn onto a marble slab, let stand a few minutes to cool, then work with a wooden spatula until white and creamy. Put into a bowl, cover with oiled paper and let stand twenty-four hours.

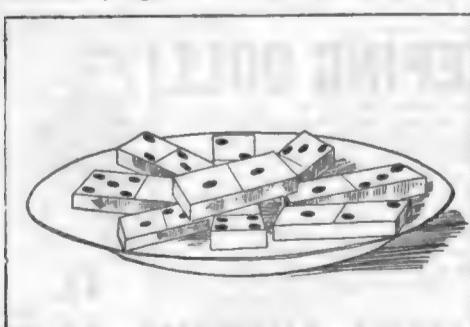
SWEET SANDWICHES.

Finely chop preserved Canton ginger; add an equal quantity of finely-chopped nut meats and one-half the quantity of finely-chopped candied orange peel. Add enough thick syrup to hold the mixture together, and a few drops of vinegar. Spread between small sweet crackers.

Next comes a request for a recipe for

BROWN BETTY.

Put a layer of sliced tart apples in a buttered pudding-dish. Sprinkle with sugar and ground cinnamon, or grated lemon rind, and cover with



CHOCOLATE DOMINOES.

soft bread crumbs mixed with melted butter. Alternate the layers of seasoned apples and buttered crumbs until the dish is filled, having the last layer of crumbs. Bake about an hour. Serve with cream. If the apples are dry, add half a cup of cold water when the dish is first set into the oven. From one to three pints of apples may be used to one pint of crumbs. Molasses may be used in the place of sugar. Half a cup of sweetening may be used to a pint of apples. Raisins, citron and nuts, all cut fine, may be added to the apples.

For a new drink, to be served at luncheons or afternoon receptions, try

MEXICAN CHOCOLATE.

Scald one quart milk with a four-inch piece

stick cinnamon and three tablespoons ground coffee. Strain through double cheese cloth, re-heat and add two ounces vanilla chocolate heated over hot water and diluted with one-half cup boiling water; then allow to cool three minutes. Flavor with brandy and rum, about one teaspoon of each. Beat with Dover egg beater and serve with whipped cream sweetened, and flavored with brandy.

If brandy and rum are an objection as flavoring, vanilla may be substituted.

On our own account we are going to give a recipe for oysters à la ravigote, which are delicious.

OYSTERS À LA RAVIGOTE.

Cook ten oysters in their own liquor, drain, remove tough muscles, and cook liquor until reduced one-half. Melt one and one-half tablespoons butter, add two tablespoons flour, one-half cup cream, one egg-yolk, and the oyster liquor strained through cheese cloth. Add two tablespoons ravigote butter, and salt and pepper to taste. Serve in terrapin or ramequin dishes.

RAVIGOTE BUTTER.

Pound and force through a sieve one sardine, one-third cup cooked spinach, one tablespoon parsley, one-half pickle chopped, two teaspoons capers, one-fourth cup water cress and one-half cup butter. Add one teaspoon anchovy essence and salt, pepper and tarragon vinegar to taste.

Oysters are sold by count in Philadelphia and south, but north of Philadelphia they are sold by the quart. It is difficult to tell how many oysters are in a pint or quart of oysters, as they vary so in size. The only way to do is when buying them, to ask the dealer to count ten or twenty oysters and then measure them, and then you will know just how to buy them.

An item from Answers on costly kitchens will interest our readers:

Apsley House kitchen is said to have cost £7000 to build, and this not counting the



OYSTERS À LA RAVIGOTE.

silver-plated stewpans worth £20 each, or the copper and other ware valued at £4000.

In Windsor Castle kitchen the king has copper and silver utensils worth something like £9000, while on fittings alone George II. expended the sum of £10,000 in order to satisfy his cook.

But the cream of kitchens is owned by the Czar of Russia, who, soon after his accession to the throne, spent £80,000 in remodeling and refurbishing his kitchen at the winter palace, St. Petersburg. All the cooking utensils are of solid silver, while the spice-boxes are of solid gold. His chief cook draws a salary of £8000 per annum, and he has six subordinates in receipt of salaries ranging between £1000 and £1500—to say nothing of hundreds of supernumeraries. Altogether the czar's kitchen expenses amount to £120,000 yearly.

The Shah of Persia's kitchen is the most valuable in the world, if it is not the most expensive. The Shah could, if he wished, realize more than £1,000,000 on the sale of the contents of his kitchen. His food is cooked in gold-lined pots, and he eats his dinner off solid gold plates, encrusted with precious stones of priceless value. His jeweled knives and forks are said to be worth thousands of pounds, while his marvelous state soup tureen is worth half a dozen large fortunes.

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THE finest bridge in the world is about to connect Europe with Asia. A great German Syndicate, supported by French, English and Belgian capital, has secured a concession to build a railway to the ancient city of Bagdad in Mesopotamia, through the valleys of the Euphrates and Tigris. From Bagdad the line is to be extended down to the Gulf of Persia. In connection with this railway it has been projected to bridge the strait which connects the Black Sea and Sea of Marmara, and separates Europe from Asia; or in other words the Bosphorus.

The length of the Bosphorus is 18 miles and

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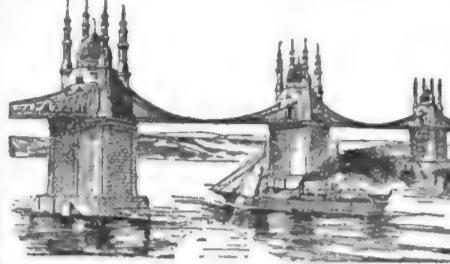
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its greatest breadth one and one-half miles, and its narrowest point seventeen hundred feet. Here it is where the finest bridge in the world is to be erected. It will be a suspension bridge, after the American system, but in form and architecture it is to be entirely oriental. The European end of the bridge will be erected at Rumell Hissar, whilst the Asiatic terminus will be at Anadoli Hissar. It is a historic spot where the magnificent structure will appear, for in the year 513 B. C. the Persian King Darius crossed here with an army of seven hundred thousand men to the Bosphorus on a flying bridge. Three monumental Saracen Towers, crowned with glittering faience domes and minarets, will arise from the bottom of the sea, to support the richly decorated and profusely gilt bridge, which, during the night,



will be lighted by thousands of electric lamps. The roadway will be supported by steel chains and it will be so high that the largest steamers and vessels can pass below it.

It is further intended to protect both approaches by a system of outerworks, and also to arm the bridge piers by means of turnable armor batteries which—themselves inaccessible to the fire of the larger guns of war vessels will be able, at great distance, to sink or disable any foreign fleet which may try to force a passage past the structure.

Most important of all this bridge will afford direct railway communication between Europe, Asia Minor, Persia, India, China and Africa. Direct trains will run some day from Calcutta to Hamburg in twelve days, from Tonking to Paris in fifteen days, and if the "Cape to Cairo" railway is ever built the Bosphorus Bridge will afford direct trains to run between Cape Town, South Africa, to St. Petersburg in sixteen days.

The Bridge will be named after the ruler of the Ottoman Empire and be known as the "Sultan - Abdul - Hamid - Bosphorus Bridge." Its cost will be in the neighborhood of \$15,000,000. Truly, at this, the opening of the 20th century it would seem as if we had just begun to live.



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weekly by representing us in her locality and as the position is pleasant and profitable the year round we will gladly send particulars free to all. Even your spare time is valuable. This is no deception, and if you really want to make money address WOMAN'S MUTUAL BENEFIT CO., Box 11, JOLIET, ILL.

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Mr. Hugo Horn, 244 E. 6th St., New York City, writes:
"I reduced my weight 40 lbs three years ago and have not gained an ounce since. Purely vegetable, and harmless as water. Any one can make it at home at little expense. No stirring. No sickness. We will mail a box of it and full particulars in a plain sealed package for 4 cents for postage, etc.
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Wonderful Cures are Effected That
Seem Like Miracles Performed--
The Secret of Long Life of
Olden Times Revived.

**The Remedy Is Free to All Who
Send Name and Address.**

After years of patient study, and delving into the dusty record of the past, as well as following modern experiments in the realms of medical science, Dr. James W. Kidd, 213 Baltes Block, Fort Wayne, Ind., makes the startling announcement that he has



DR. JAMES WILLIAM KIDD.

surely discovered the elixir of life. That he is able with the aid of a mysterious compound, known only to himself, produced as a result of the years he has spent in searching for this precious life giving boon, to cure any and every disease that is known to the human body. There is no doubt of the doctor's earnestness in making his claim and the remarkable cures that he is daily effecting seems to bear him out very strongly. His theory which he advances is one of reason and based on sound experience in a medical practice of many years. It costs nothing to try his remarkable "Elixir of Life," as he calls it, for he sends it free, to anyone who is a sufferer, in sufficient quantities to convince of its ability to cure, so there is absolutely no risk to run. Some of the cures cited are very remarkable, and but for reliable witnesses would hardly be credited. The lame have thrown away crutches and walked about after two or three trials of the remedy. The sick, given up by home doctors, have been restored to their families and friends in perfect health. Rheumatism, neuralgia, stomach, heart, liver, kidney, blood and skin diseases and bladder troubles disappear as by magic. Headaches, backaches, nervousness, fevers, consumption, coughs, colds, asthma, catarrh, bronchitis and all affections of the throat, lungs or any vital organs are easily overcome in a space of time that is simply marvelous.

Partial paralysis, locomotor ataxia, dropsy, gout, scrofula and piles are quickly and permanently removed. It purifies the entire system, blood and tissues, restores normal nerve power, circulation and a state of perfect health is produced at once. To the doctor all systems are alike and equally affected by this great "Elixir of Life." Send for the remedy to-day. It is free to every sufferer. State what you want to be cured of and the sure remedy for it will be sent you free by return mail.

Modern Smuggling.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7).

however, opened in the seizure room of the Custom House whether they were taken immediately on their arrival or the strength of the information that had been given to the elderly gentleman, who was a Custom House detective, by the soft-hearted dressmaker. Some of the dresses were redeemed by their owners on payment of the legitimate duties and a fine, but others were never called for and were ultimately sold at auction. The other passengers who had given their confidence to the stranger were compelled to pay full duties on every article whose possession they had acknowledged. He "saw them through the Custom House all right," but his interpretation of those words was quite different from theirs.

Some time ago there were among the passengers of a steamer a modest appearing woman with her son of sixteen. The woman had two trunks and the youth one, not a large equipment for returning travellers. They declared that they had no dutiable goods and the inspection revealed nothing; the inspector passed the trunks and as he was turning away he heard the mother say in a low voice to the son, "Hurry up, Charlie, and get a carriage as quick as you can."

Thereupon the officer said he would take another look at the trunks. He did so and as he turned the first trunk over the woman turned pale and well she might for each trunk had a false bottom three inches in depth and in these false bottoms there were several hundred dollars worth of laces from Brussels. It was the anxiety to get away from the dock that had betrayed the smuggler.

An organized system was recently discovered by which considerable quantities of clothing were received in New York without paying duties. Agents of English tailors were established here and took orders for suits of clothing to be made in London and delivered to the customer here for less than he would be obliged to pay if he patronized an American tailor. The customers asked no questions; many of them supposed that their garments were properly imported and paid the required duties, but others were not so guileless and boasted that they were getting their clothes through the Custom House by a roundabout way.

The detectives worked quietly until they had all the information they were able to get without revealing what they were after. Then one day they stopped a wagon just as it was leaving the dock of a prominent steamship line, and examined its contents. It was found to contain a box and a large bundle, and the contents of box and bundle were suits of new clothing just from the hands of London tailors.

One of the officers mounted to the driver's side and told him to drive to where he was going before they stopped him.

The fellow sullenly obeyed, at least apparently. He drove to a certain street and number and halted in front of a grocery store.

"This isn't the place" said the officer. "Drive to number—on Greenwich Street."

The driver saw he was caught and that the officers knew more than he supposed. He took the wagon to its proper destination and there another box of clothing was found; it had been landed an hour or two before and the consignees had not had time to come for it. The new box was added to the load of the wagon which was then driven to the Custom House where the goods were promptly deposited in the seizure room.

"Recently," said an officer who has been looking over the opium smugglers, "a large quantity of opium was sent by express over the Canadian Pacific Railway from Victoria to St. Thomas, Canada. From St. Thomas the boxes were sent to Windsor, directly opposite Detroit; there they were smuggled across the river at night and the next day were shipped to San Francisco. The consignment of opium reached San Francisco in the same cases in which it started from Victoria; it was a long way round to send opium, but when it gets through without paying any duty the speculation is a profitable one. Eight thousand pounds of opium were thus transported in three months; some of it went through safely but after a while we dropped to the tricks of the business and made some large seizures."

Smuggling is attempted in the cargoes of ships as well as in the baggage of passengers. Cigars pay a high duty and consequently offer a temptation to cheat the revenue; they have been found in logs of wood, in air-tight boxes, in casks of molasses or sugar, and in other similar receptacles. They have been brought in rubber bags and thrown overboard at night in the lower bay to be picked up by confederates in boats lying in wait for them. On one occasion the Custom House boat took the place of one belonging to the smugglers and made a rich haul. At another time the officials watched for a wagon on the Jersey shore and when it was loaded with bags of cigars and ready to start they rushed out and took possession.

Two of the stewards of the steamer were arrested and sent to Ludlow Street jail and the next morning an account of the affair was spread in the newspapers. The parties concerned in the smuggling cabled to their friends on the other side of the Atlantic a brief account of the affair and of course this at once put a stop to the shipments. But unfortunately for them there was a steamer of the same line then on the ocean and there was no way of communicating with her. In due time she arrived at New York and as one of the arrested men had made a full confession the revenue officers knew exactly where to lay their rude hands as soon as the vessel reached quarantine. The parties on whom they laid them were sent to jail like their predecessors and a goodly quantity of goods was added to the pile in the seizure room.

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I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure the piles from any cause or in either sex, or any of the diseases peculiar to women such as leucorrhœa, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc. I will gladly mail a free box of the remedy to every sufferer. Address MRS. O. B. MILLER, Box 106, Kokomo, Ind.

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BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

It is early to predict what will be the best feature of 1902 bicycles, but it is a good time to consider the subject of bicycling attire. Like the proper adjustment of wheels, the failure to adopt proper clothing for cycling often makes riding a hardship. The men are very nearly as capricious as the women in selecting attire for outings. Some of the cycling costumes of both classes are as alarming as they are startling. Women attired in heavy boots, longish, cumbersome skirts and ungainly-looking head-gear are very frequently seen riding bicycles. For real comfort, wheelwomen want only the most essential and the lightest garments. The low-cut boot is the most desirable. It gives freedom of action and allows for coolness. Skirts should not be of heavy material, and they should not reach below the ankle. The most desirable hat for cycling is the straw sailor or the ordinary sized felt golf hat.

Men in order to wear suitable attire may be instructed to forego the ungainly, warm and homely-looking sweaters, which they seem partial to even in midsummer. The heavy bicycle hose should be avoided; in fact, the easy-fitting bloomer costume common with golf-players makes the most desirable bicycle outfit. In the warm weather riders express surprise that bicycling is so heating. They seem to overlook entirely the fact that in midsummer they cling to costumes that would be comfortable in mid-winter. It is in the early spring and fall that cycling is most enjoyed for continuous riding, but during the summer months early morning and evening rides are found popular. Cycling at night has a decided charm. And in some parts of this country January is as popular a month for cycling as August.

With women particularly, for riding, suitable apparel plays a very important part. When riding in cool weather woolen garments next to the skin are necessary to prevent a cold that might develop into something more serious. In warm weather cotton underwear may be worn, though wool in the shape of a light jersey is preferred from a hygienic standpoint. Elaborate effects in bicycling skirts are not permissible; in fact, fashion demands that these affairs must be characterized by tailor-like severity, and their attractiveness must depend solely on their perfect cut, fit and finish.

Skirts made of cloth and textiles of a like nature are invariably lined either with percale or soft silk, but if one of the double-faced woolens is employed, lining is unnecessary, as these fabrics are sufficiently heavy.

A neat skirt of double-faced cloth in any serviceable color reaching almost to the ankle, with a rather deep facing ornamented with rows of stitching and adjusted smoothly at the top, and the back laid in an under or over box-plait, and either a jaunty Eton or fly-front jacket of the same or of a contrasting color, forms an approved cycling costume. A flannel or wash shirtwaist is preferably chosen, with linen collar, string or four-in-hand tie and leather belt as accessories.

The hat may be a soft felt Alpine, straw sailor or Tam-o-Shanter cap, as preferred, while other essentials are golf stockings, low shoes with extension soles and low heels and strong gloves.

The bicycle should always be kept well cleaned, the bearings properly set—a little loose rather than tight—the chain properly adjusted and in perfect running order. In the case of chain wheels an occasional bath of the chain in lubricating oil after it has been washed in kerosene oil to remove the dirt and grit is a necessity. Before the chain is put back on the wheel rub it as dry as possible, as the oil is needed in the bearings only; then before using the wheels spin the rear wheel round so that the oil will work into the bearings of the chain. Wipe the chain dry and put on a coating of graphite.

The chainless bicycle requires little especial care to keep the running parts in perfect condition, so admirably devised are the lubricating arrangements for the gears and inner bearings. Keep the tires well inflated and be sure that all nuts and bolts are set up tight. Nickel parts of the wheel should be cleaned and dried after a ride in the rain.

A factor essential to perfectly healthy results from bicycling is the bath after the ride; this the law of health and cleanliness demands. The danger of colds, chills and tired, headachey feeling many women experience after exercise is obviated with the bath and change of apparel.

In riding a bicycle the handlebars should be sufficiently low to support, when desired, the body from the shoulders through the extended arms. A slight inclination of the body forward is preferable to a perfectly upright posture, but extremes in either direction are to be avoided. The perineum can be spared if some of the weight of the body is carried on the pedals. If soreness or fatigue results from either a long or short ride, the affected parts will be greatly relieved by rubbing with alcohol 95 per cent. pure.

A certain amount of exercise is absolutely necessary to a perfect physical condition, and in order to gain only good results any overtaxing of the strength should be avoided. Splendid specimens of young womanhood and girlhood everywhere attest the benefit of a methodical and judicious use of the wheel. By its use the muscles are strengthened, and through the employment of the pure fresh air, new life and energy are inspired. A woman organically sound can cycle with as little fear of ill effects as a man, so long as she keeps within the limits of her endurance. Century runs and excessively long rides do no good and frequently harm the healthiest of both men and women, while hill climbing that severely taxes the heart action, should be avoided.

In the matter of sundries, ample scope is allowed individual preferences, as any number of thoroughly comfortable saddles are on the market and are supplied as options with the wheels. The lamps, bells, handle-bars, pedels, etc., offered will satisfy the most fastidious.

The bicycle is strongly indorsed as a healthful form of exercise; but some riders by overindulgence abuse its advantages. The average rider and the men content to race judiciously subject themselves to no injurious effects from



A SENSIBLE COSTUME.

cycling; but the riders who seek to ride long distances within record figures make a beneficial exercise a labor, and fail to secure any of the many benefits which riding in moderation produces.

Again, both men and women have a tendency in riding to assume positions upon the wheel which are unhealthy. Improperly adjusted saddles, handle-bars and pedals will pitch riders into uncomfortable positions, and it frequently happens that the ordinary rider will complain of fatigue and exhaustion often after a very short ride.

It often occurs that these complaints give rise to the idea that certain persons are not fitted for cycling or that the exercise is too severe. But it is pretty well established that such complaints arise from improperly adjusted wheels, which are both uncomfortable and unhealthy.

All riders, and more particularly new ones, should solicit the advice of experienced wheelmen in the adjustment of their wheels.

Remember: That in proportion to its weight, the bicycle carries a far heavier load and is subjected to severer strains than any other vehicle. Consequently, finer materials and more perfect workmanship must be employed in its construction. Naturally the importance of proper

care and considerate usage is increased.

That the bicycle takes one to nooks and corners never before thought of. It causes a man to know his immediate neighborhood better than he deemed possible, and it often brings the rider in pleasant contact with people with whom otherwise he might never know.

That it is an excellent thing to have a step on a bicycle and to use it in mounting. The pedal mount is graceful and pleasing to look at, but it is hard on the machine, especially as regards the spokes and tires.

That faith may move mountains, but too much of it will lose bicycles, whose owners leave them unguarded. Like the horse, the bicycle helps the criminal to get away from his pursuers.

That an accident which will completely disable a chain-driven bicycle, so far as the transmission of power is concerned, will not affect the bevel gear machine to such an extent that it cannot be ridden.

That in the matter of independence, pedestraining alone approaches cycling, but tramping is slow and wearisome, and entirely lacking in that exhilarating quality which is one of the chief characteristics of wheeling.

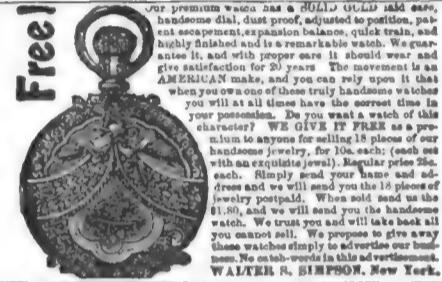
Don't lend. Don't borrow. Keep your wheel like your toothbrush for your own personal use. When a number of persons use the same machine, you will find the greater the number the poorer the care it gets.

Don't ride down town on a street car when you can use your wheel. You will save both time and money, and, besides, you will at least be sure of a seat.

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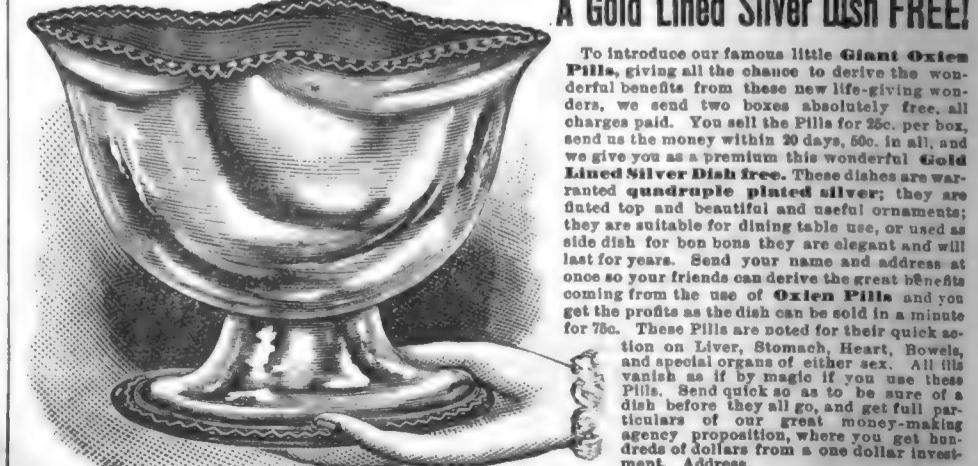
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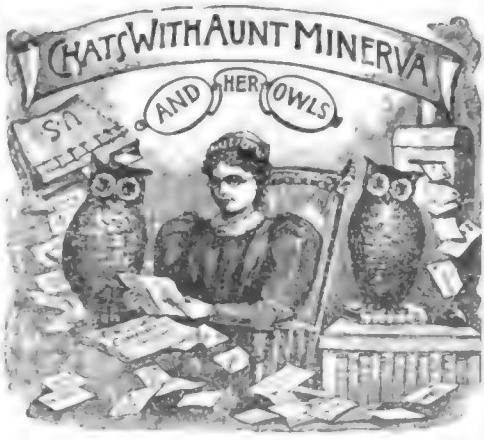
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EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to Comfort, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

\$10 CASH PRIZES \$10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| 1st. For the best original letter | \$3.00 |
| 2nd. " second best original letter | 2.50 |
| 3rd. " third " " | 2.00 |
| 4th. " fourth " " | 1.50 |
| 5th. " fifth " " | 1.00 |

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must comply with all the above rules, and in addition must bring at least two new Cousins into the Comfort circle; that is, they must send two new subscribers with each letter, together with 50 cents for the yearly subscriptions.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Alice Pierson. | \$3.00 |
| Newton M. Layne. | 2.50 |
| Mary W. Early. | 2.00 |
| Mrs. F. R. Shurtliff. | 1.50 |
| Haud H. Rodgers. | 1.00 |

EAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Just now we hear on every side the words—"A happy new year to you!" "I wish you a happy new year!"

What do these words mean? What is the thought of our friends in expressing the wish? Do they desire for us wealth, or pleasure, or freedom from care and toil? or do they wish for us contentment with our lot and a habit of seeing the bright side of life? a firm resolve to make the very best of what we have and to remember always that

"Life, my dear, is what we make it."

And the world is as we take it."

The latter is the kind of a "happy new year" that Aunt Minerva wishes for each one of you, and her earnest hope is that every one of her nieces and nephews will find it day by day as the year goes on.

Our first letter this month is a bit of last summer's pleasant experiences.

"An interesting trip was taken last summer to one of the logging camps in the Adirondacks. The camp was situated a few miles from Tupper Lake in one of the prettiest and wildest regions of the mountains. To reach it from the hotel where we were staying a trip of seven miles down the winding Riequette River had to be taken, in one of the slender, easily-tipping guide boats, in which one has to be most careful to step on the ribs, for fear of breaking through the thin, quarter inch flooring. The river was bordered on both sides by lovely woods, now a stretch of primeval forest with huge maples and beeches, and now a great burned-over area covered with half-grown white birches and quaking aspens, with great bare, pine trunks towering far above them, pathetic remnants of the old forest. A big blue heron rose now and then from the bank and lazily flapped his way across the stream. It was so still that we expected at any moment to see a deer come down to the water's edge and look at us with his gentle eyes, and indeed, in the soft mud along the shore, were many fresh made tracks.

"Finally, a turn in the river brought us to the boat house, where we landed, and after a few minutes' walk reached the little settlement of lumbermen's huts. It was a picturesque sight, the log cabins in straight rows, with brightly-colored garments on the lines about them, and in one dark doorway a long-bearded lumberman, looking in the heavy shadow, not unlike a Rembrandt portrait.

"Passing the houses, we came at once to the logging railroad and soon saw a train of flat cars and the log loader. On both sides were huge piles of logs laid in rows, one on top of another, on the 'skidways.' These latter are not 'ways,' as the name suggests, but four logs placed in the form of a square, with ends crossing at the corners. The logs here were cut many miles back in the woods in the winter and dragged here by horses, to



LOG LOADER.

await transportation on the logging railroad to Tupper Lake, where they were to be made into barrel staves. But the most interesting part of the scene was the log-loader. It held our attention with a sort of fascination, it seemed so human. A giant arm equipped with a pair of mammoth pincers, retched out of the window of a little red engine house on one of the cars. With much puffing and blowing circled outward and downward, and seizing in its iron grasp a twelve foot log, slowly lifted it and bore it to the car, where it dropped it, apparently at just the place intended. Three men stood on the car, one to unfasten the iron talons from the log after it was settled, the other two to take and record the measurements. Still another stood below among the logs to guide the great pincers. When one car was filled, the arm swung idly while the engineer put on steam and ran the house itself, which was on a small

track, to the next car. Then the arm began its work again and continued steadily until the next car was full.

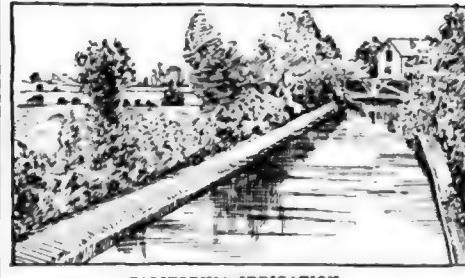
"The day was rendered even more interesting by dinner at a camp a few miles further up the river. We went into the big bare dining-room after the lumbermen had left, and, sitting on long board benches at a table covered with oilcloth, ate with much relish their hearty fare of salt meat, baked beans, pie and coffee, served by French Canadian cook. When dinner was over, we were taken upstairs to see the men's sleeping apartments, occupied in the winter by from sixty to a hundred men. One large room comprising the whole upper floor, was used for this purpose, and contained long parallel rows of bunks crowded closely together. It was difficult to imagine a hundred men there at one time.

"When we started back the sun was low in the west and we watched the changing colors in the sky and on the shores as we rowed up the river, and noted the gradual re-appearance of familiar outlines; Seward, with its spreading, irregular form which changed with each bend in the river; Marcy, far-off, and blue in the distance; and finally Stony Brook and forest-covered Moose."

ALICE PIERSON, New York.

I have always wanted to see real Indian village but the next best thing to seeing is to read the following vivid pen picture of such a village and people.

"Away up in the foot hills of the San Jacinto mountains there is a little Indian settlement where a rude people still cling to their ancient customs and primitive methods. At the base of twin peaks of perfect similarity in form and size is



CALIFORNIA IRRIGATION.

a little village. One narrow street, and on either side a row of adobe houses. The walls are thick, the roofs of cat-tails and rushes, and the floors of hard packed earth. There are many quaint and picturesque scenes. They cut their grain by hand, beat it with galls or trample it out with ponies, and grind it in stone mortars.

"The Indian women are always at work, the men gamble or lie in the shade and smoke. On a barren hillside above the village stands a little white-washed adobe church, and every Sunday morning a brilliantly attired procession winds slowly up the hill in the hazy sunshine. At the door they dip their fingers in the holy water, kneel and cross themselves. When they are seated the priest lights the candles and kneeling before the altar raises his voice in a singing chant while the congregation responds with guttural intonations almost weird in effect. They pray, the priest talks awhile in their barbarous dialect, they are dismissed and go, wetting their fingers in the holy waters, back to their huts—to gamble the rest of the day and all the night among themselves and with the cowboys of the Rancho Diablo.

"Hot springs, now but little known but doubtless destined to become famous, are a source of revenue to these Indians. The springs are three in number and are separately characterized by sulphur, magnesia and iron. The water is clear as crystal in the rocky basins, and from numerous crevices in the bottom bubbles of gas are continually escaping, while the air fairly reeks with the natural fumes.

"The temperature of the water is about 144 degrees. It is conveyed in flumes of hollow logs to rude bath houses near by for the few white people who make it a yearly resort, renting cottages and taking the baths for many different maladies.

"From a near by peak a wonderful view may be had. On the north are the tangled ranges of the San Jacinto mountains, on the east the Colorado desert seems spread out at your feet, a vast stretch of barren sand with the mountains that mark its eastern borders faintly visible against the sky. To the south lie the blue mountains of Mexico, and on the west the broad Pacific Ocean with the distant island 'Corpus Christi' half hidden in the haze. A land for the poet and dreamer, its history reaching back to blend with the traditions of half-forgotten races, of Aztec and Inca, who dwelt and passed away."

NEWTON M. LAYNE, Santee, San Diego Co. California.

We have had several letters of late on the oil fields of the central states, but this one contains much that is interesting, so I may safely offer it for your reading.

"Will not the cousins and Aunt Minerva come and visit an old cousin far away down in the oil fields of Washington county, Ohio. Along this sluggish little Muskingum river the fields, though narrow, are very fertile and the hills rise above the little stream more than a thousand feet. Some of them, indeed, are almost mountains and are very beautifully formed. One of them, which I can see as I write, is very high, slightly separated from any other, and is of a perfect cone shape. So beautiful is this grassy cone that I often wonder if it was the work of nature or of that pre-historic race, the mound builders. It is known among us as Mount Olive. Far away across the valley is another hill which is very much higher than the rest, and from its top may be seen miles and miles of the great oil field. On the top of this hill is an oil well which has produced more than a hundred thousand barrels of oil and is still a small producer.

"When one sees from the top of this hill the many tall derricks which dot the hills and valleys, one can realize what a great industry the development of the oil product is and what a benefit it has been to the United States. This field is now on the decline, but there is a vast amount of undeveloped territory here yet and many rich strikes may still be made by the risky speculator. The work is very expensive, and it requires a fortune to develop a deep-sand field. If one is so unfortunate as to drill a few dry holes, discouragement and often a lack of money causes an abandonment of what is really good territory; but some later comer, possessing more means or proving more fortunate in his drills, may make a fortune on this same territory which yielded nothing to the first worker.

"One who has never visited an oil field cannot imagine what a grand thing the natural gas is. I often wonder as I light my gas fire to prepare a meal, what my grandmother would have thought of depending on a half-inch pipe for light and fuel, and of cooking on a stove which she might pick up and carry about with ease."

"There is a well being drilled about one hundred feet from our house, and I hope later to be able to describe to you the drilling of an oil well and also the different kinds of sands in this vicinity."

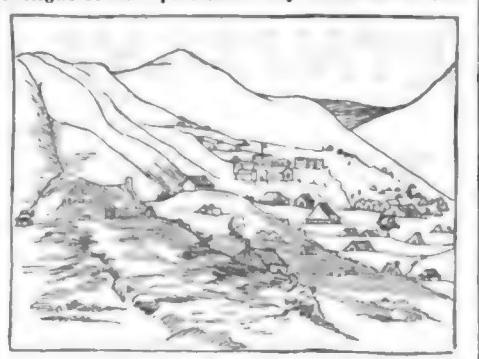
MAS. F. R. SHURTLEFF, Muskingum, Ohio.

The following letter comes from one of our most valued cousins and contributors, and treats of a very strange occurrence. I wonder if there are others of the cousins who witnessed this display of light spoken of in the letter.

"One of the most remarkable, and, as many believed, prophetic occurrences that transpired during the Civil War, was the brilliant illumination of the great American flag which at this time floated from the summit of Mt. Davidson, Nevada. Upon the eastern slope of this mountain was built Virginia City, then large and extremely busy, surrounded as it was by the great mines that ran night and day, and whose silver, then being dug in such quantities, helped to save the Union."

"The 30th day of July, 1863, when the country was yet in trouble and contention, was one quite contrary to the usual bright, clear summer days of this rare atmosphere. Since early morning clouds had enveloped the mountain peak, and far off across

the eastern plains the gray mists had lain all day. Travelers, who at this time thronged to this mighty city, found the glorious and gorgeous sunsets one of the features of the place, but at the approach of twilight of this particular day the heavens con-



VIRGINIA CITY, NEVADA, IN 1863.

tained no touch of color. Suddenly with the setting of the sun, a light breeze sprang up which carried the clouds far southward and a flood of light illuminated the summit of the mountain, and the great flag now stood revealed in wondrous color. All the brilliancy usually abiding at this hour in the west seemed to have forsaken the sky and enveloped the flag which, as though touched by fire, burned and glowed in the warm light. Evidently some remarkable act of nature was being carried out and all the inhabitants of the city, awed and mystified, stood beholding it far into the evening. As suddenly as it had come the remarkable color died away, leaving the mountain summit wrapped in its usual sombre stillness, but the city at its base was astir almost all night.

"Strong believers in omens stood firm in their belief that this glorification of the country's flag augered well for the future of the country, and it was not long after this, when the Union was at last secure, that the flag was again illuminated and the old cannon at its feet fired in honor of the occasion."

MAUD B. RODGERS, San Francisco, Calif.

Here is an interesting letter on historic old Yorktown and her monument. I wish Mrs. Early had told us a little more of the old place, of the house in which Washington had his headquarters, and where the articles of capitulation were signed.

It is still standing, and in constant use as a dwelling, but the room rendered famous by Washington's use is open to visitors. The old church, set in the midst of the graveyard, and the quaint little old houses, many of them dating back to Washington's time, are well worth a visit. Indeed, the whole place looks as if time had stood still there since the Revolution, and one could almost imagine one's self back in colonial times, so little has the place changed in appearance.

"Yorktown, Virginia, though a small place and almost untouched by the current of modern progress, is still a very interesting spot, for here occurred the culminating scene of the great drama of the American Revolution, namely, the surrender of Cornwallis, on October 19th, 1781. Apart from historical associations, it also has a charm of its own from its location, being situated on one of the most beautiful streams in Virginia, the York (which is really an arm of the sea rather than a river) with its

waters blue as those of the Danube. Yorktown is on the peninsula in Eastern Virginia formed by the York and James rivers, and is about twelve miles from Williamsburg, the old colonial capital of the state. All this section of Virginia is rich in historical associations, in addition to its natural beauties. A little more than twenty years ago a lofty monument was erected at Yorktown in commemoration of Cornwallis' surrender, and it was unveiled and inaugurated with appropriate ceremonies on the 19th of October, 1881, just a century from the day when Cornwallis, seeing himself penned in both by land and water, was compelled to capitulate. By orders from Sir Henry Clinton he had marched to Yorktown and taken up his quarters there—Lafayette who was close at hand speedily informed Washington of this move, and the latter, seeing the great advantages he might reap from it, marched as rapidly as possible from the Hudson to the Virginia peninsula with his combined French and American troops. He joined Lafayette about the last of September and laid siege to Yorktown by land, whilst by water it was besieged by a French fleet under Count De Grasse, a fleet consisting of twenty-five ships, containing three thousand troops. Surrounded thus both on land and water, there was no resource but for Cornwallis to surrender.

"We are undoubtedly under a large debt of gratitude to the French, and it remains a problem whether we could have achieved our independence without their aid. To say the least of it, our struggle would have been vastly harder without their assistance. Of late years, a beautiful tribute has been paid to Lafayette's memory by the school children of the United States, they having raised funds to erect a statue to him."

MARY W. EARLY, Lynchburg, Va.

There, my lap is empty. I think we have a very interesting budget of letters for the first one of the new year, and I hope that my nieces and nephews will make it one of their New Year resolutions to keep that each one will do his or her part towards keeping Aunt Minerva's lap full of letters all the year. You cannot send too many, for all will be welcome.

AUNT MINERVA.

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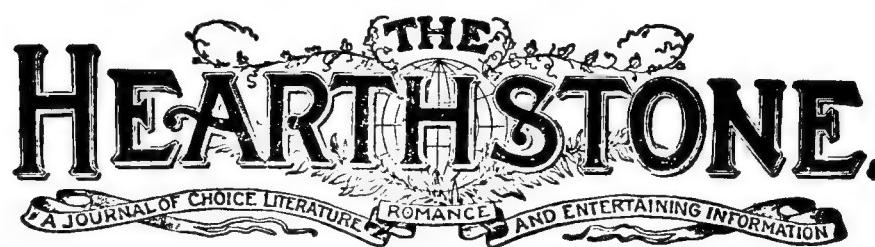
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NEW IDEA WOMAN'S MAGAZINE is one of the best home and fashion Magazines published, and by many is preferred to The Delineator. Many of its illustrations are in colors, and the entire publication is characterized by excellence in every department. Regular price \$1.00 per year. It will be seen at a glance that our club offer is a liberal one—the two for only 75 cents.

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THE HEARTHSTONE 52 Duane St., New York



TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY COUSIN MARION.

A Happy New Year to you all and glad "How d' y' do?" to 1902. I suppose we shouldn't be glad to welcome the flight of time, but why not? It will go just as fast whether we are glad about it or sorry, so then let us be glad, for it will make it pleasanter in passing. I hope you will all have a year of good works and good rewards; and now let us take up our talk.

The first cousin to be answered in the new year is Sweet Rose of Butte, Montana, and she wants to know whether she should marry the young man her father has chosen for her, or the one she really loves. As she is but fifteen my advice is to marry neither for at least five years.

Josie, Plymouth, Cal.—I believe an engaged couple may kiss each other at meeting and at parting even though "he comes six times a week." (2) Dark hair with gray or hazel eyes is brunet. "Chataine" I believe it is in French.

Polly Wog, Elliott, Ills.—You may correct a person before others if it is all well understood, otherwise it is better not. Eye glasses may be taken off and cleaned in the presence of company. Don't appear at the front door with your sleeves rolled up and your work apron on, unless you know who is there.

Pine Ridge Flower, Upton, Wyo.—Lemon juice is about the best and simplest remedy for freckles. (2) Engaged girls usually go to dances with their fiance when they live in the same neighborhood.

L. C. M. J., Washougal, Wash.—When you say you will not speak to the young man, keep your word. That will teach him you have strength of character. (2) As to the other simply ignore him.

Address FAMILY HERALD, Augusta, Maine.

Home Work 80c. a sheet, copying. Send stamp. Wholesale Supply Co., South Bend, Ind.

\$300 Genuine Conf. money for \$1. \$100 for 50c. R. MAXWELL, Box C, South Bend, Ind.

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MARRY 10,000 See next column in **MARRY** STANDARD CLUB, Club, St. K., Chicago, Ill.

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100 FINE WHITE ENVELOPES Neatly Printed with your name and address. Price 25c. per dozen. Order from W. P. HOWIE, PRINTER, BEEBE PLAIN, VT.

LADIES WANTED to do writing at home. Good wages. No canvassing. Send stamped envelope for reply. MISS MODELL MILLER, New Carlisle, Ind.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

SAY Have you read the ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO.'S notice to Agents on last page. You can't afford to miss it. It is the greatest offer to Agents ever made by any firm on earth.

FREE Send name and address, will mail you 12 Gold Plate engraved Two Picture Lockets, sell them for 10 cents each; send us the money and we will send you this beautiful solid gold laid ring with Turquoise set stones and by Brilliants. WESSON JEWELRY CO., PROVIDENCE, R. I.

INCUBATORS AND BROODERS BEST HOT WATER PIPE SYSTEM. Simple, durable, economical and safe. Hatchets stronger and more chickens from 100 eggs than any other. Prices reasonable. 96-page Illustrated catalog of Incubators, Brooders, fancy poultry and poultry supplies free. G. C. SHOEMAKER, Box 478, Freeport, Ills.

We will send you the whole lot FREE by Express. The Guaranteed good time Keyless Lever "COMFORT" Watch with Chain and Charm and the eight other pieces of Jewelry as here illustrated and described.

As we give you the privilege of a full examination of the contents of the Free Club Association's **Free Club Association**, a brief description of the goods appears below.

The "COMFORT" lever movement Lantion pinion Watch is guaranteed good time; it is damp, dust and proof, has short, wide and long rim, is fully nickelized and will wear without tarnishing for years. With each Watch we send a guarantee card.

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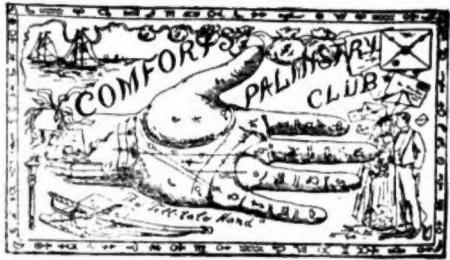
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CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

CONDITIONS.

To have one's hands read in this department, by Digitus, one of the finest living palmists, it is necessary to observe the following conditions:

Impressions of both hands must be sent, fully postpaid and having the name, address and name de plume of the sender enclosed in the package also.

The package must in every instance be accompanied by the names and addresses of eight new subscribers at twenty-five cents each, the whole amount, \$2.00 being remitted, with the package, addressed to COMFORT PALMISTRY CLUB, Augusta, Maine.

No notice will be taken of impressions and requests for readings unless the sender has fully complied with the above conditions.

To take impressions, first hold two large pieces of blank paper over a candle or similar flame, until they are heavily coated with the smoke. Then lay these pieces down, smoke side uppermost on a pad of cotton. Now place the two hands, palms downward, one on each sheet of paper, pressing firmly and steadily down, but taking care not to move the hand. Keep them so for one minute and lift carefully, so as not to disturb the impression. Have ready some fixative, which can be bought at a drug store or an art store or made with gum arabic and water in an atomizer. Spray this over the impressions before they are moved and allow them to dry. Then they are ready to send.

Smoked paper impressions are the best. But if it is desired to send a plaster cast, take plaster of Paris and dissolve in water to the consistency of thick cream. Pour this into a large shallow dish and when it is hardening place the hand, well-greased, palm downward, in the plaster, pressing downward. Several minutes will be required to get this impression and great care must be taken in removing the hand, not to break the plaster. Casts are exceedingly difficult to send without breaking and should be very carefully packed in a box with the name of the sender written on it. Putty is sometimes successfully used in place of plaster. A good photograph if sufficiently well taken to bring out all the lines, can also be read, although in all cases the smoked paper is the best, if properly treated with fixative.

BEAR IN MIND THAT ALL THE ABOVE CONDITIONS MUST BE OBSERVED.

Also, that letters not complying with them will go into the waste-basket. Readings cannot appear for several months after impressions are sent.

SEVERAL inquiries have come with regard to the "Croix Mystique." This is a sign so entirely by itself that I devote a separate discussion to it. It is found traced with more or less distinction in the quadrangle beneath the finger of Saturn.

It always gives to a subject mysticism, superstition and occultism, or, with a very good hand, religion. If it is very large it betrays exaggerated superstition, bigotry and hallucination.

If it is clearly traced in both hands, it betrays folly arising from the excessive influence of the principal mount; thus, with Jupiter developed, over-ambition; with Saturn, misanthropy; with Apollo, extreme vanity or miserliness; and with Venus, erotomania.

If the "Croix Mystique" is joined to the line of Saturn, it foretells good fortune arising from religion.

If it is displaced so as to lie, as it were, between the mounts of Mars and of the Moon, it indicates a changeability of disposition which will lead to good fortune.

"M. Truthful" has a line crossing the fate line or line of Saturn, which would be read by some as a "Croix Mystique," although I should not so interpret it myself. This is a hand, however, that is liable to bring good fortune as it has several lucky signs besides. The life line after the age of twenty, is singularly free from opposition of any kind. Previous to that age I should judge that this person was hampered in many ways and not allowed to have his own way in many things, but after that he is free to lead his own life and to go his own way. His right hand is much better than his left. The latter indicates a selfish person who would sacrifice almost anything to gain his own ends. At the same time his right hand would indicate that he has overcome these tendencies of his nature and he is an upright and moral man upon whom the community at large may safely depend. He will live to be eighty or more, and his life will be uncommonly smooth and free from troubles after the age of twenty-five. His health will be good, although I should say there is some underlying weakness of the constitution not apparent to the casual observer. He will be a good business man and will make a good deal of money after the age of thirty-five. In matters of the heart he will be straightforward and honorable, and the woman who unites her fortunes to his will be well cared for and kindly treated and appreciated. At the age of twenty he has had or will have some peculiar experience over which he has worried a good deal, but it will not affect his future life for on the whole he will have a very successful and prosperous, although uneventful, career.

Somebody has asked what the principal signs of a murderous hand are. First, you will find the color to be very red or even livid. If the former, the murderer will be done in a momentary fit of anger; if the latter it is liable to be more deeply planned and carefully brooded over and the whole nature of this subject is evil. This, however, should not be taken as an indication infallible, because often a highly colored hand is the sign of good health; only this must be otherwise well marked. The first phalanx of the finger of Mercury will be heavily lined, and at the base of the line of life will (probably) be found sister line. The line of head will be deeply traced and thick, having probably a circle upon it, and being generally joined to the line of heart and separate from the line of life. The nails short, the line of life thick at the commencement, and spotted with red, and the line of head twisted across the hand. All these signs collected in a hand are an infallible indication of a murderous instinct.



M. TRUTHFUL.

Take another example: In this hand we find the line of head twisted and very red, a grille is placed upon the Mount of Mercury, and the whole hand is dry and thin, having the joints developed on the fingers. From the third phalanx of the little finger sundry small lines go on to the mount, which latter is also scarred with a deep strong ray. This is the hand of a thief, and the impulse of theft will be found to be almost, (if not quite) infallible.

Falschowd,—i. e. a general tendency to deceit—is always very clearly marked in the hand and is marked by a number of different signs, any one of which by itself is a sufficient indication of a strong tendency in that direction. These are: a high Mount of the Moon, upon which the line of head is forked, and on which are found small red points; the thumb is short and on the inner surfaces of the phalanges of the fingers there appears a kind of hollowing or sinking in of the flesh. The line of head is generally separated from that of life by a space which is filled with a number of confused lines.

Another very characteristic hand is the voluptuous or pleasure-loving hand. The fingers are smooth and pointed, having the third or lower phalanges swollen; the whole hand is plump and white, the palm strong, and the thumb short, giving it sensitiveness. The Mount of Venus is high. Such subjects are impressionable, and liable to fall into grave errors; they are sensual, vain, and egotists, always actuated by motives of pleasure. Women who have these hands are always dangerous, for they are subtle and unscrupulous in their pursuit of enjoyment, and often exercise a most fatal influence upon men into whose lives they come.

An artist will have, of course, the typical artist hand, but there are differences which denote the different taste of the artist, as for instance, the flower painter will have the

Mount of Venus high with long fingers, and a large thumb; (color, detail, and perseverance); the painter of still life will have rather squared fingers and the Mount of Mercury; (exactitude and science); the painter of battle pieces will have the Mount of Mars developed, indicating the natural taste of the subject. Painters with squared fingers always paint what they can actually

see rather than what they merely imagine.

In a doctor's hand we shall find the Mount of Mercury rayed with the line of Apollo clearly traced. The doctor whose hands bear the Mount of the Moon well developed will always be inclined to discoveries and eclecticism, and the doctor with hard hands and very much spatulated fingers will have a natural penchant for veterinary surgery.

The astronomer has the Mount of the Moon, of Mercury, and of Saturn well developed, with long knotty fingers to add calculation to his imagination and science.

The horticulturist has a hand in which we find the Mounts of Venus and the Moon high, with spatulate fingers to give him energy, and long fingers to give him detail.

Square fingers with a good line of Apollo and a good line of Jupiter, denote an architect.

Sculpture betrays itself by a scarcity of lines, the Mounts of Venus, of Mars, and of the Moon high in the hand, which has a strong tendency to thickness and hardness.

Literary men have always the Mounts of Jupiter and of the Moon developed; the latter particularly, if the taste lies in the line of poetry. Literature gives, as a rule, soft spatulate or square hands, with the joints (especially that of matter, the second), slightly developed. Literary critics have always short nails and high Mounts of Mercury.

Among musicians subjects whose fingers are spatulate, and whose Mounts of Saturn are high, whose nails are short and whose joints are developed, with the Mount of the Moon prominent, long thumbs, the Line of Apollo, and (as a rule) the Girdle of Venus. Melody generally gives smooth fingers with mixed tips, the prevailing Mount being Venus.

The actor has fingers which are either spatulate or square, the Mount of Venus developed, and the line of head forked. The line of heart turns up slightly towards the Mount of Mercury, and as a rule, a line runs from the Mount of Mars to that of Apollo.

Digitus

Orange Lily cures Leucorrhoea, Ulceration, Displacement, Painful Periods. For a free trial address, Mrs. H. C. Fretter, Detroit, Mich.

The Moqui Indians have a sure cure for rattle-snake bites.

THREE DOLLARS a day sure. Without a doubt a great opportunity. For particulars see last page of this paper.

Big Money

Made or saved. Print your own cards, &c., with a \$6 Press. Larger size for circulars, books, newspapers, \$18. Type setting easy, printed rules. Send stamp for samples, catalogue of presses, type, paper, &c., to factory. The Press Co., Meriden, Conn.



\$5.50 DUEBER
SEND NO MONEY
For our magnificently engraved double hunting case watch of Gold alloy with extra 14 karat gold plate, equal in appearance to any diamond set. Movements are the best made, fully jeweled, duplex escapement, quick train, pat. pinion, accurately regulated and adjusted with **20 YEAR GUARANTEE**. Ballered men all over the country buy this watch on account of its durability and timekeeping qualities. Our factory price is \$42.00 per doz.; for the next 160 days we will send you one sample for free inspection. If fully satisfied pay \$8.50 and express charges, otherwise not one cent. State nearest express office, and if delivery of **EXCELSIOR WATCH CO.** is not received within 10 days, we will refund your money. Address **EXCELSIOR WATCH CO.** 66 Central Bank Bldg., Chicago.

The Preservation of Timber.

J OHN Branch of North Carolina was secretary of the navy department in 1829. In his official report for that year he recommended a method of treatment of timber used in the American navy for the purpose of preservation which the lapse of time has demonstrated to be of immense value.

Live oak, he said, should be immersed for twelve months in water, then taken up and placed under cover to protect it against sun, rain and high winds. Its immersion rendered it less liable to split. White oak, he said, should be soaked about eighteen months in fresh, or two years in salt water; then taken up and sawed into such sizes as may be required, and then placed under cover for about two or three years. Yellow pine should be docked about twelve months; then taken up, sawed and covered for about two years. Mast timber should be immersed and covered in mud till wanted for use.

An excellent illustration of well preserved oak timber is found in the United States Government bonded warehouse adjoining the old Lazaretto grounds, at Essington, Penn. The warehouse was built over a hundred years ago, and the oak joists, which are about two feet thick, are as sound and strong to-day as they were when first put in place. The old building has been used for various purposes, and a few years ago it served as a refuge for about fifty Indian sailors from Calcutta, who were in quarantine there, while about a dozen of their number were being treated at the Lazaretto hospital for beri-beri, a rare disease in this country.

THE most of the wooden toys that are sold come from Germany, where men, women, and children are employed in their manufacture, for in almost every cottage, in the valley of the Tyrol, called Gudnerthal, may be found a workshop for their use, and with the use of from twenty to thirty tools they fashion the numerous toys that gladden the hearts of the little folks all over the civilized world.

I CURE FITS

When I say I cure I do not mean merely to stop them for a time and then have them return again. I mean a radical cure. I have made the disease of FITS, EPILEPSY or FALLING SICKNESS a life-long study. I warrant my remedy to cure the worst cases. Because others have failed is no reason for not now receiving a cure. Send at once for a treatise and a Free Bottle of my infallible remedy. Give Express and Post Office.

Prof. W.H. PEEKE, F.D., 4 Cedar St., N.Y.

FISTULA AND POLL EVIL

Fleming's Fistula and Poll Evil Cure is a new, scientific & certain remedy. **NO COST IF IT FAILS.** Write today for important circular No. 404 FLEMING BROS., Chemists, Union Stock Yards, Chicago.

Cured in 15 to 30 Days

\$15.05 STEEL MILL.
For \$15.05 we sell the HIGHEST GRADE, STRONGEST, LIGHTEST RUNNING AND BEST PUMPING STEEL WINDMILL.
\$14.30 buys the highest grade and strongest all steel windmill TOWER. Every mill covered by a BINDING GUARANTEE. For greatest windmill offer ever made write for free Windmill Catalogue. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.

Real Steam Engine FREE.

EVERY BOY AN ENGINEER.

Be an engineer, learn to run an engine, how to use fuel, oil up and blow the whistle, just like the man. You never saw a steam engine in your life that you didn't like the looks of. Now here we give you a chance to have one all your own that you put on a table and get up steam and blow the whistle and watch the wheels go round fast or slow just as you wish, and every lad you know will be green with envy.

A genuine Yankee Engine has the following parts and can be taken down and put up as often as you wish: Cylinder with Sliding Balance Wheel, Drive Wheel, Smoke Stack, Safety Valve, Whistle Complete, Boiler with Heater, stands 8 inches high, highly finished in enamel and nickel, a Jim-dandy engine and guaranteed way up. With this engine you can run all kinds of toy machines you can buy or make for yourself with spools, etc. Great fun to make toy machinery using string for belt driving. We want every young man to have an engine; the practical side of life is well demonstrated to any youth that interests himself; so we give for the balance of the season and to get new subscribers one engine as a reward for sending us a club of only three yearly subscribers to our big five color magazine at 25c. each. This small club of three amounts to 75c. pays for the full subscription for the three addresses and obtains a prize. Engine delivered prepaid by mail or express carefully packed and fully warranted. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

A Wide-Open Letter

Specially to that Great Army of Weak Men Who have been Hoodwinked and Defrauded by the Worse than Infamous Mountebanks Who Disgrace the Medicine Business.

Mr. Geo. S. Beck, Proprietor of "Wonder-Workers," the Greatest and Best Remedy for all Kinds of Sexual Weakness that the World Has Ever Known, Throws Another Bomb into the Camp of the Sharks Who Prey Upon the Fears of Weak Men, and Offers Their Victims the Benefit of His Great Remedy at Cost.

MY DEAR BROTHERS:—More than 250,000 permanent cures during the past three years prove that my "Wonder-Workers" are a Godsend to weak men everywhere. There is not a case of Lost Manhood, Night or Day Losses, Varicocele, Sexual Weakness or Nervous Troubles of any kind anywhere on earth (no matter whether caused by overwork, self-abuse or worry; and no matter whether the man be old or young) that "Wonder-Workers" will fail to cure quicker and at less expense than any other remedy made anywhere in the world if simply used (at home, at your work) one tablet at a dose three times a day. They cured me in less than one month's time, at the age of forty-four years, when I like you, lacked that vitality without which a person is a man only in name, and after I had been nearly ruined by the frauds and fakirs who disgrace the medicine business. I ask you to bear in mind that I am the only man in the world in the business who has solemnly sworn that the medicine he sells cured himself and that the names of all who buy it will be held sacred forever.



I am the same Geo. S. Beck, living at 420 South Market Street, Springfield, Ohio, who is hated by every Electric Belt impostor. Free Sample schemer, C. O. D. fraud, Free Prescription fakir, and Doctor by Mail humbug in America because of the manner in which I have exposed their infamous schemes. Their only object in making "Free" offers is to get the names of men who are sexually weak so that they may harass them with their impudent letters and lying, filthy circulars; and I, here and now, again challenge any and all of these frauds and poison distributors to thoroughly sift and test my charges of low villainy and palpable fraud in any court of law or justice they may select. If you have had any dealings with them you know that all my charges against them are true as Gospel.

I beg to assure you on my honor as a man that no matter whether you are married or single, old, young or middle aged; or no matter whether your weakness or nervousness is caused by over-work, secret vice or the excessive use of strong drink or tobacco, the use of my "Wonder-Worker" will search every nerve center of your body, renew every tissue, develop every organ, strengthen every muscle, invigorate every function, and bring to you a perfect and permanent restoration of strength and manly vigor. The reason why "Wonder-Workers" do this is because they are a Pure Nerve Food and Tonic, and because they do not contain any phosphorus, or Spanish fly, or any other of the poisons that make the vile nostrums sent out by the frauds and quacks so dangerous to human life. It is perfectly safe to use them at any time or under any circumstances, and their use will not fail to restore natural strength and vigor without any trace of excitement or stimulation in old or young.

Because of the wonderful merit of my "Wonder-Workers," and the fact that I treat every man as fairly in every respect as though he was my own natural brother, I have built up the largest mail-order medicine business in the world in less than three years. I defy any man to whom I sent "Wonder-Workers" to say that I have treated him unfairly in any manner, shape or form. If you order "Wonder-Workers" mention this paper, the publisher of which is hereby authorized to publish me as a fraud and scoundrel if I fail to do exactly as I agree with any of its readers.

The price of "Wonder-Workers" is only One Dollar per box, always cash with order; by express at your expense. It will cost 25 cents to lift them from express office. If you send \$1.15 I send them by mail prepaid, thus saving you ten cents. If you have any doubt about me write to any Commercial Agency, Mr. A. R. Cobough, Cashier of the First National Bank of this city, (the bank of which Hon. Asa S. Bushnell, Ex-Gov. of Ohio, is President,) or to any of your friends in Springfield.

GEO. S. BECK, 420 S. Market St. Springfield, Ohio.

NOTICE TO AGENTS

A Profitable Business

FOR MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE
WILLING TO WORK.
\$3.00 A DAY SURE.

DEAR READER:

If you are out of work, or are not satisfied with your present business and would like to make more money, it will be to your interest to read this notice. We do not offer you a chance to make a fortune without work, but we do offer you an opportunity to make money much faster than you can make it at any other kind of work. The country is flooded with circulars offering chances to make money at the rate of from twenty to fifty dollars a day; such offers are not business-like, and all agents who amount to anything are disgusted with such circulars, and most of them are thrown aside without being read. If you are looking for an opportunity to make twenty to fifty dollars a day, you might as well throw this notice aside also; but if you would like to engage in a good paying business, you will do well to read this notice through carefully. Then you can use your own judgment as to whether our offer is a reasonable one or not.

We guarantee that anyone who is willing to work can make from \$3 to \$5 a day at this business. We admit that \$3 to \$5 a day is not much of an inducement when compared to the statements made by some firms, who offer all the way from \$20 to \$50 a day for selling various articles. We do not make you such glowing promises, but what we do offer you has the advantage of being true. We might offer agents a sure chance of making from \$20 to \$50 a day, but the chances are that anyone who would believe such unreasonable nonsense would not know enough to earn his board at any kind of business. That is not the kind of agents we are in quest of; we want reliable agents with common sense, who are willing to work for good pay, and not those who are looking for an opportunity to make a fortune without work. We believe the only way to get such agents and keep them, is to furnish them with a good thing to sell, a real genuine bargain, and then to tell them the exact truth about the business. We have a large number of agents at work, and we know for a certainty what working agents can make. We know that \$3 a day is the very lowest; most of our agents are averaging \$4 and \$5 a day, and often some of them make a good deal more than that. We have several agents who are clearing from \$7 to \$10 a day. But these are great workers operating in the best territory, and, of course, everyone cannot do as well, but it is easy for anyone to make, at the very least, \$3 a day above all expenses in any territory. We haven't a single working agent who is clearing, on an average, less than \$3 a day. Now, be sure that you understand us: We don't say that lazy, shiftless agents will make \$3 a day, for they can't do it at this or any other business, but what we do say is that agents who are willing to work, not too hard, but the same as they would expect to work at any other business, can easily clear \$3 a day above all expenses, in any territory, and if they have good territory to work in they can make anywhere from \$5 to \$7, and even \$10 a day. If you want a good chance to work and get good pay for it, you will find it to your interest to read this notice through carefully.

The articles which we have for you to sell are a line of forks, spoons, etc., made of a new metal called "Brazil Silver." We will describe this new line of goods the best we can, then you can judge for yourself whether we are offering you a good chance to make money or not.

BRAZIL SILVER.

Warranted for Twenty-five Years.

Brazil Silver is believed to be the very best metal in existence for the manufacture of forks and spoons; it has all the lustre and brilliancy of burnished coin silver, and is much harder and more durable, in fact, it is impossible to wear it out. It is absolutely indestructible. The goods made of this metal are the same all the way through, there being no plating to wear off; they will remain as good as new for any length of time. For all practical purposes in the manufacture of table ware this Brazil Silver is superior to coin silver. It is as lustrous and as pure as coin silver, and being much harder it will wear even longer than silver; in fact it is absolutely impossible to wear it out. It will wear forever. As there is no plating to wear off, the metal being the same all the way through, it stands to reason that you can't wear it out. Our confidence in the metal is so great that we guarantee it to wear twenty-five years. We give a guarantee signed by the company warranting the goods to wear and to give perfect satisfaction for twenty-five years. We are an old, strong and thoroughly established firm with ample capital to carry on our business and make our guaranty as good as the Bank of England. In selling these goods an agent can recommend them with the greatest of confidence, for they are just as represented, absolutely indestructible. And, furthermore, our guarantee warranting the goods to give satisfaction for twenty-five years, clears the agent from all responsibility in the matter; for if any article fails to give perfect satisfaction, no matter how long it has been in use, we hold ourselves ready to refund the money paid for the article. These goods are the same metal all the way through; they will never wear out. They always wear white and bright. We give a guarantee signed by the company, warranting every piece of Brazil Silver to wear twenty-five years. You can sell these goods to your best friends with perfect confidence, for every sale is as much a benefit to your customer as to yourself.

Working with goods that are warranted to wear and give satisfaction for so long a time as twenty-five years, and by a Company, too, whose capital is sufficiently large to make their guarantee good for almost any amount, is an advantage which no other firm is prepared to offer. If you want to make money fast now is the time to do it. If you think that five-dollar bills are good things to have, now is the time to get them. Never in the history of the agency business have agents had as good a chance to make money rapidly, and it is reasonably sure that they will never have another chance like it.

It is easy to make from \$3 to \$5 a day at this business.

All Marked with Initial Letters, Without any Extra Cost.

Among all classes there has always been a strong desire to have their table ware marked with their initial letter, but on account of the heavy expense of having it marked only a very few have been able to afford it. Heretofore the cost of artistically marking table ware has been even greater than the cost of the goods; now, by our new methods, we are able to offer these elegant Brazil Silver goods, all marked with any initial letter desired in the very highest style of the art, without any extra cost for marking. These Brazil Silver goods, even if unmarked, would be the greatest bargain ever offered the public in table ware, but with the additional and highly desirable feature of being all marked with beautiful and artistic initial letters, these goods are not only great bargains in table ware, but are the greatest bargains of any kind that have ever been offered to the public through agents or in any other way.

The people are always ready enough to buy what they want when it is presented to them in the form of a genuine bargain. Well, here is absolutely the greatest bargain ever offered, and the agent who works with it will find that what he has is earnestly desired at nearly every house he visits; it is easy to get orders when you can offer great bargains, that the people really want and can afford.

It is easy to make from \$3 to \$5 a day at this business.

Table and Dessert Knives.

Our knives are made of the finest tempered cutlery steel and are triple plate, in other words every dozen knives is plated with 12 dwt. of pure silver and hand burnished. Our knives are of the highest grade, fully equal to Rogers' or any knives made. These knives will not wear as long as Brazil Silver goods, but they will wear as long as any knives made. We guarantee them to wear ten years in constant use. If not in constant use they will wear proportionately longer. We give a guarantee, signed by the Company, warranting the knives to wear and to give perfect satisfaction to the purchaser for ten years. As knives are usually used in families they will wear much longer, anywhere from fifteen to twenty years. They are fully equal to Rogers' knives and only cost about two-thirds as much. It may seem strange to some that we can sell so staple an article as silver plated knives at such reduced prices, but we are doing it. It is our way of giving the public good, solid value for their money. We are saving our customers about one-third of the price at which the same grade of knives are sold at the stores and jewelers. Any one who will take the trouble to compare our knives and prices with triple plate 12 dwt. knives sold at the stores and jewelers, will be convinced of the truth of our statements. We are making a profit, of course, but our unequal facilities and immense trade make it possible for us to undersell all competitors, and our customers are getting the benefit of the lowest prices known in the silverware trade. We are not only selling at greatly reduced prices, but we also guarantee every article to be exactly as represented and to give perfect satisfaction to the purchaser, or money refunded.

The First Thing to Do.

If you decide to accept the agency, the first thing to do is to send to us for the agent's case of samples, which is the most complete and perfect case of samples that has ever been prepared for the convenience of agents. Our complete and perfect case of samples is not to be compared with anything that has ever been sent to agents before. It contains the very best and most salable articles in the world. There is nothing in the market that agents can sell as fast and sell as easily and make as much money out of, as they can the goods contained in this splendid case of samples, and everything is arranged and explained so that any agent can't fail to understand just how to go to work to make a great success of the business. As soon as you receive the case of samples you are ready for business. And if you are willing to work you are just as sure to make from \$3 to \$5 a day as the sun is to rise. Take the case of samples and canvass your territory according to the directions sent with the samples, until you have taken orders for the amount of goods you are prepared to send for. Then order the goods from us and fill your orders, and so continue.

The Magnificent Case of Samples Which We Furnish to Agents.

The case of samples which we furnish to agents contains the following articles:
 One Sample Table Knife, retail price, \$2.10 per set of six 35 cents each
 One Sample Dessert Knife, retail price, \$1.95 per set of six 32 1-2 cents each
 One Sample Table Fork, retail price, \$1.95 per set of six 32 1-2 cents each
 One Sample Table Spoon, retail price, \$1.95 per set of six 32 1-2 cents each
 One Sample Dessert Fork, retail price, \$1.80 per set of six 30 cents each
 One Sample Dessert Spoon, retail price, \$1.80 per set of six 30 cents each
 One Sample Tea Spoon, retail price, 95 cents per set of six 15 5-6 cents each
 One Sugar Shell 25 cents each
 One Butter Knife 25 cents each
 One Salt or Pepper Shaker 25 cents each
 Total retail value of Samples \$2.83 1-3

We also send you with the case of samples a large and very beautiful catalogue, illustrating a full line of plated ware, such as Casters, Pickle Cruets, Butter Dishes, Tea Sets, Napkin Rings, etc., etc., etc.

Reckoning the above samples at our lowest retail prices they amount to \$2.83 1-3. We furnish them to agents nicely put up in an elegant sample case or roll, for only \$1.00, which is \$1.83 1-3 less than they amount to at our regular retail prices. This is less than one-half of the retail value of the samples, and much less than they cost us. The sample case or roll, which the samples are put up in costs us nearly as much as we require you to send for the samples, case and all.

Wholesale Prices.

Wholesale or agents' prices and all necessary information for carrying on the business will be furnished with the Outfit. Remember we make everything plain to you about wholesale prices, methods, etc., when we send you the Outfit.

VERY IMPORTANT.

The business we are offering is straightforward and honest in every way, shape and manner. Our goods are in every respect, just as we represent them to be. The Outfit we furnish our agents is exactly as we represent it, and is always sent the same day the order is received, just as agreed. We have tried to state these facts so they could and would be believed and still we are constantly receiving letters from parties who would like to engage in the business and would do so if they felt sure we were telling the truth and would do as we agree. Many of these doubters have been cheated and are not altogether to blame for doubting; the most of them say they think we are honest, they say we talk honest, but as they have already been swindled they don't feel like risking even one dollar and so, although our business is in every respect just as represented, and we always do just as we promise, we lose the services of a great many agents and they lose the benefit they might derive from the business because they are afraid we may not be telling the truth. Now, to overcome this spirit of doubt, we have decided to send Samples to all who wish us to do so, C. O. D., with privilege of examination at the express office. It costs us from twenty-five to forty cents more to send the samples this way, as we have to pay that amount for return charges on the money, but we are willing to do it and so prove to all that are interested that the Outfit and our goods are just what

we claim. If after reading this notice you think you would like to give the business a trial, but wish to see the Sample Case before you pay the one dollar cut out the following printed form, fill it out and send it to us and we will send the Outfit to your express office prepaid, and give the express agent instructions to let you thoroughly examine the Outfit, then, if you are satisfied that we have told the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and are also satisfied that you can make money selling our goods, you can pay the express agent one dollar and take the Outfit. If you are not satisfied, you can refuse to take it and the agent will return it to us. No other firm has ever made such an offer. We have adopted this plan in order to convince the most skeptical and to secure the services of all the good working agents in the United States.

(CUT OUT THE FOLLOWING FORM.)
 Form to be Signed by those who wish us to send the Outfit C. O. D. with Privilege of Examination.

ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO., DETROIT, MICH.

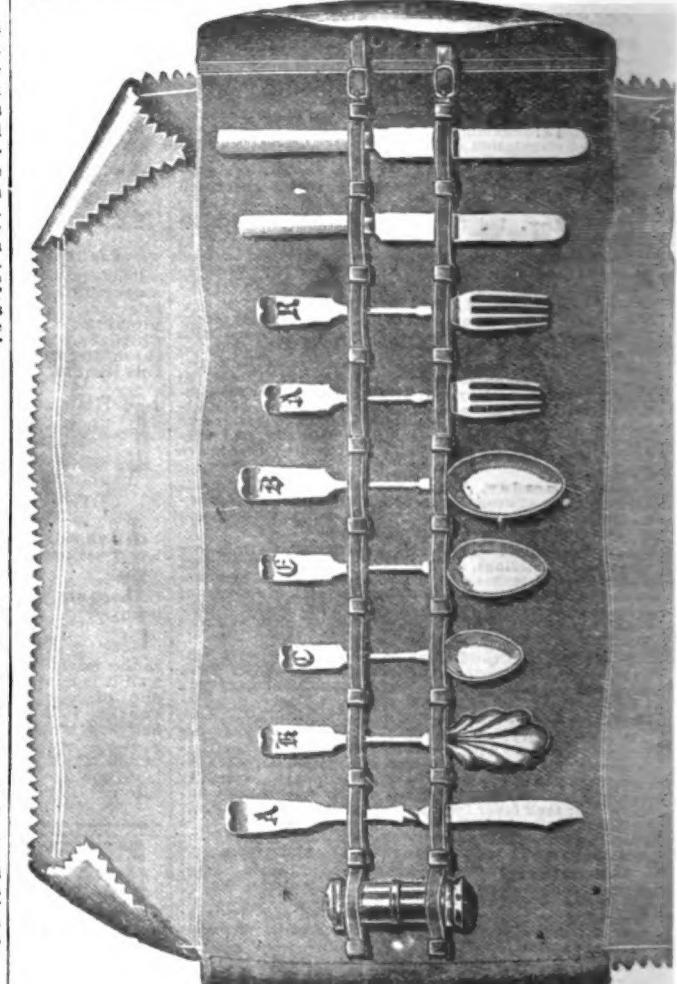
GENTLEMEN—Send the Outfit by Express, C. O. D., with privilege of examination. If I find the Outfit just as you say, I will pay the one dollar required and give the business a fair trial, but if I am not satisfied that the Outfit is as good as you recommend it to be, I shall refuse to receive it. Now, remember, the understanding is that I am not to take the Outfit unless I, myself, am satisfied that it is all right. It must all depend on my own judgment. If I am satisfied, I will take the Outfit; if I am not satisfied, I shall not take it and shall not pay the one dollar. If you want to send the Outfit with this understanding, send it along C. O. D., with privilege of examination.

Name.....

Postoffice.....

County..... State.....

Express Station.....



This cut shows the Sample Case or Roll, and how the samples appear put up ready for business. The Roll is made of highly finished waterproof canvas, and lined with soft flannel goods. The samples are held in place by strong straps. The whole rolls up and fastens with a leather strap which is firmly fastened to the back of the Roll. This is the most practical arrangement for carrying the samples that could be thought of. When rolled up the Case is compact and easy to carry. When open the samples show to the best possible advantage, making a good impression at first sight. This Sample Roll gives a business-like appearance; it is substantial and handsome, and invariably gives the impression that there is something valuable inside. All are anxious to see what it is you are carrying around with such care. This is of importance as it secures attention and interest at the start. There is nothing like having your samples put up in a business-like shape; it gives a favorable impression from the start, which is half the battle. It is the same in all matters. A store that looks like business attracts customers; while, from a shanty store, you would not, as a rule, expect the best things. The fact is, in the agency business, as in every other business, you must have things fixed up just right if you expect to succeed. Our Brazil Silver Goods are the best that have ever been offered for the price, or anywhere near it. The new feature of being marked with beautiful and artistic initial letters, free of cost, is the greatest popular hit of the times; and the Sample Roll is arranged so as to show the goods off to the best possible advantage. Furthermore, we carefully teach every agent just how to take advantage of all these splendid qualities and popular features. Is it any wonder that our agents succeed better than those who are working for other firms?

We Prepay all Express Charges on Everything. We pay the charges on the Outfit and on all goods ordered. Remember, we pay all express charges.

ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO.,
 Box 6700,
 DETROIT, MICH.

HON. HAZEN S. PINGREE, Michigan's Famous Governor, says we are worthy of your confidence. In answer to all inquiries I have received concerning the standing of the Royal Manufacturing Company of Detroit, Mich., I have invariably replied that the Company is in every way worthy of the confidence of all. In regard to its financial standing and the trustworthiness of the gentlemen connected with it the reading public may rely upon them implicitly.

HAZEN S. PINGREE.